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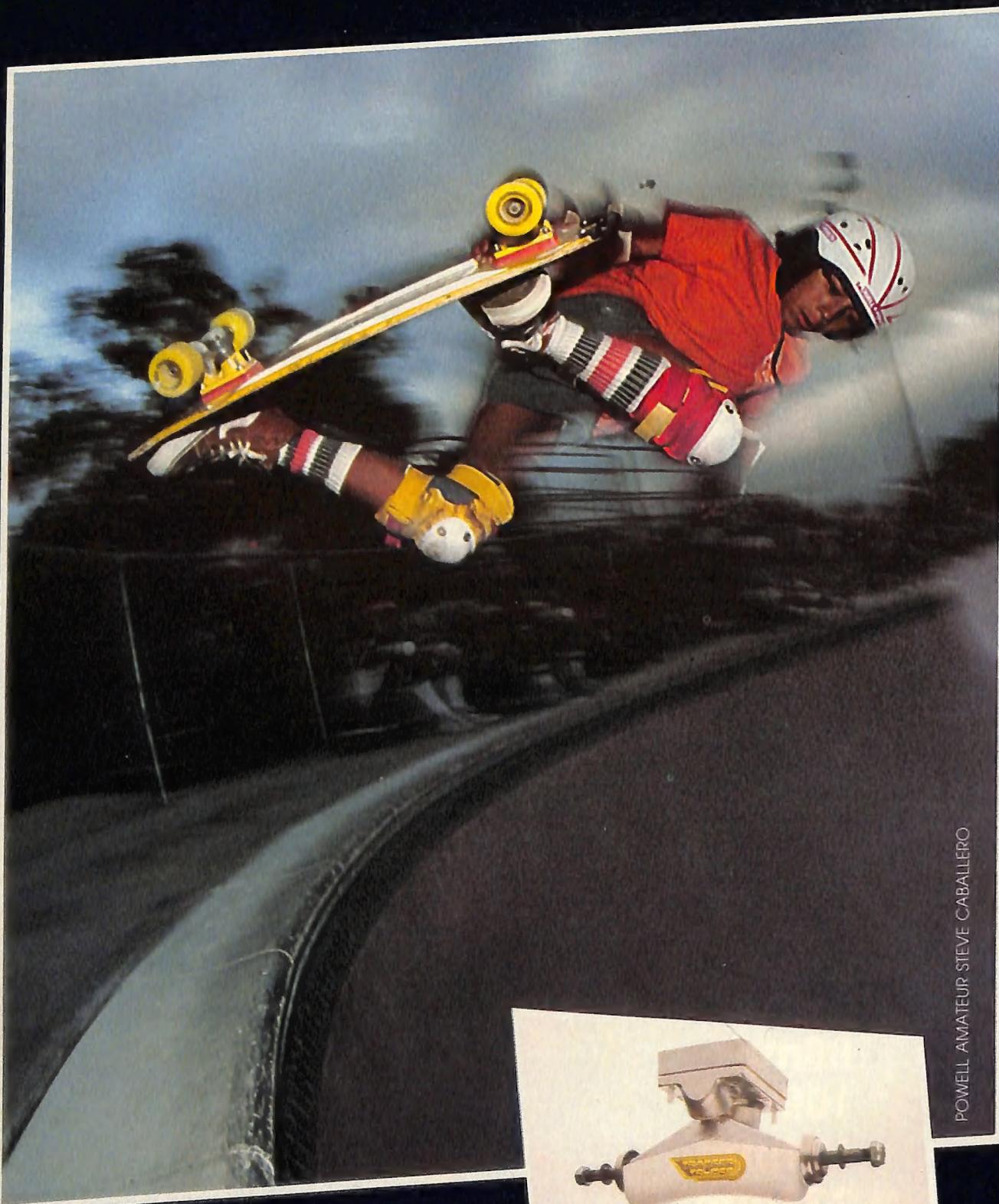


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CONTENTS

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 9 — APRIL 1980

FEATURES

20 INTERVIEW: MICKE ALBA
• Don Hoffman
28 SPECIAL TIPS PART II
36 UTAH: BEYOND DONNY
AND MARIE • Jim Goodrich
46 HIMALAYAN HIGH
• Dennis Coffee M.D.
49 VANS MARINA PRO-AM
• Don Hoffman
54 TINKER JUAREZ IN
CONVERSATION • Jeff Lee Ohana

61 SKATEPARK DIRECTORY

64 SANDBOARDING

- Jack Smith

66 LITE TRUCK SYMPOSIUM

- Sam Fernando

68 MELLOW CAT

- Ted Richards

74 TED NUGENT

- Benito S.

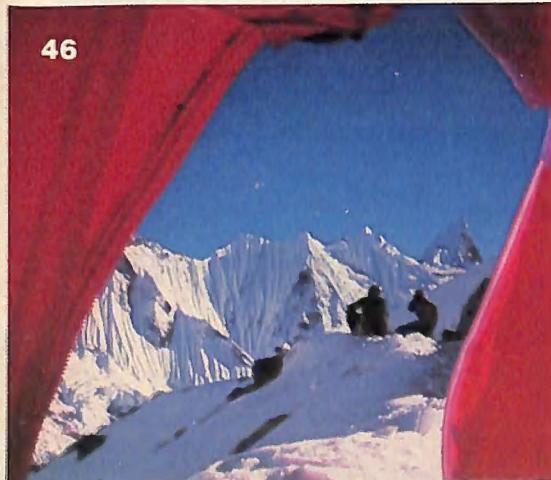
PHOTOGRAPHY

40 FOCUS

DEPARTMENTS

12 SKATE SAFE: FALLING AND
ROLLING, PART II
• Curtis Hesselgrave
13 ROLL 'N ROCK
• Corky Carroll
14 SKATE POST
19 NEW PRODUCTS
70 WHO'S HOT
72 OFF THE WALL
79 EXTRA

46

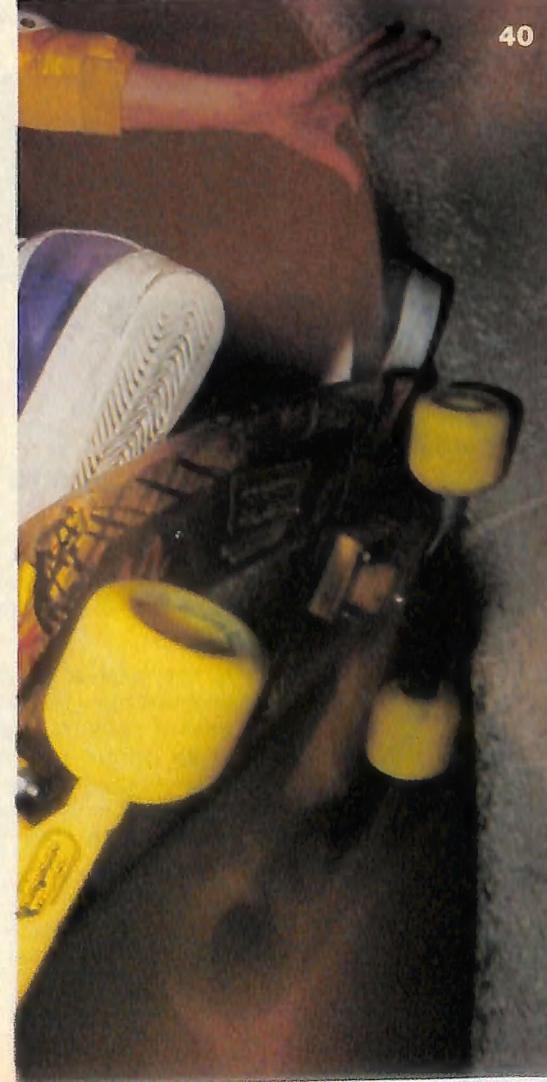


COVER: Thirteen-year-old wonder kid and winner of the 1979 Hester Series, Micke Alba, is known for his straightforward, no-holds-barred approach to skating—and now interviews. For more hot pics and an insight into what makes this spunky kid tick, turn to page 20. Photo: Cassimus
INSET: "The name of the game is to magnify the intensities." . . . And Ted Nugent certainly does! (See pp. 74-78). Photo: Pownall

74



40



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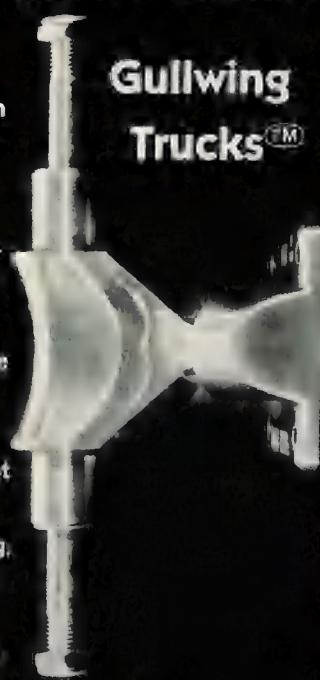
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SKATE SAFE

FALLING AND ROLLING—PART II

by Curtis Hesselgrave

In Part One we discussed rolling. Part Two will be devoted to falls in which the motion is straight down and without any sideways vector. These falls can't be rolled out of; they are the straight down body slammers. They often cause injury through that impact. Oftentimes a wrist or knee or hip will hit first and the full weight of the body plus the acceleration of the fall will be concentrated on that one spot and usually something gives. Another thing that makes these falls hard to counter is that many times they happen very suddenly and you have no time to do anything . . . except hit.

The only way to deal with impact falls is with a technique called shock dispersion, also known as break falls or judo falls. Simply stated, you try to get as much of your body as possible to hit the ground on impact. The greater the surface area of the body hitting, the more shock will be spread out. By spreading the shock out you decrease the chances that you will injure yourself because the force of the fall doesn't concentrate on any one area.

Because these falls are so unpredictable, and often happen so fast, it is very difficult to learn how to handle them properly only through skating experience; you would probably end up too bruised and broken before you learned anything. Only through outside

practice of the falls themselves will you train your body to react correctly, automatically.

The exercise that you can use to practice break falls is called a "standing side fall." (I must thank Don and John for teaching it to me or otherwise they will accuse me of more theft.) This technique teaches you to land on your side, using the heavily muscled areas of your calf, thigh, buttocks, lats, triceps and forearms to protect the bony areas from injury.

THE STANDING SIDE FALL

Standing on a soft grassy area or mat lift your right leg until the thigh is parallel to the floor. Bring your right hand up to your left ear, palm out, with your elbow close to your chest. Bow your body slightly to the right so that you can see your left foot (which you are standing on) over your right shoulder. From this position, lower your body slowly toward the ground by bending your left knee. As you are lowering you will find that your right leg is straightening out naturally to keep balance; this is exactly what you want. (As a matter of fact, help your leg to straighten by pointing your toe.) When you get about a foot from the ground, allow yourself to drop the rest of the way so that you fall on your right side. Your whole right side should hit at one time. As your side hits, slap the floor with your right hand, arm fully extended, palm down. Your slapping arm should hit at a 45 degree angle to your body, at the same time as the body hits. After slapping, the right hand should come immediately back to your left ear where it started (actually,

the arm should come back twice as fast as it goes out). It is most important that the slapping arm be totally straight when it hits. When the arm is straight, the tricep and forearm muscles bulge out and protect the elbow joint; the palm held flat protects the wrist joint. If the arm is allowed to bend or the palm flop about, the joints will come in contact with the ground and be bruised. It is also necessary to keep the right leg stretched out, toe pointed, to cause the leg muscles to bulge out and protect the knee and ankle joints.

In practicing this exercise, you are looking to teach your body the quick timing necessary to let your body parts hit at once. This is the most important part. Through repetition of the exercise you will learn the correct "feel" of the technique so that when you are skateboarding and fall for real, you will tend to do it the right way. Still, when you fall while skating, it will never be exactly like practice; that's not the purpose of the exercise. Its purpose is to teach your subconscious mind the right patterns to put your body in when the body is falling straight down.

The standing side fall exercise also has the additional benefit (when practiced on both left and right sides) of strengthening the muscles of the leg that do the lowering.

As with any maneuver in your bag of skate tricks, the more you practice falling techniques, the better you will be able to use them when the time comes. These movements will help you, after those occasional encounters with the concrete, to get up, brush yourself off, and terrorize again! ☺

"Use the heavily muscled areas . . . to protect the bony areas from injury." Aikidoist Hesselgrave demonstrates the standing side fall.



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PINE

Just finished reading your interview with Doug Saladino. I enjoyed it a lot, so I had to write.

It was a good feeling to flash back on the ever so radical Zephyr Team, Cadillac wheels, when seven 360's was insane. Pine may be only sixteen, but has been around and seen it all. He's one of the best overall skaters, a real professional in my mind. It's people like him who give you the inspiration to keep on skating. Thanks for the pure enjoyment of it all!! Kim Cespedes

Saladino shreds, but lowriders don't. Punk ain't bunk! Where's Strople and DeMontmorency? Who's Badrich? Where's the induction center for the Bones Brigade? How about more coverage on Duane Peters? Your mag's great! Keep up the punk reviews! Me & him R.L.S.

I think your magazine is the greatest. Your February, 1980, issue is one of the best you've had in quite a while. The interview you had on Pineapple was excellent and long overdue.

Tom S
Saunas, California

BLACK SKATERS

Right now I'm listening to AC/DC and thinking why aren't black skaters seen that often in the raddest mag around? For instance, why didn't SKATEBOARDER put a picture of Marty Grimes in the article on the Gyro Dog Bowl Pro, since his "Grimes slide" was named the most outrageous maneuver?

Anthony "the real Black Alva" Briggs
Houston, Texas

"Unfortunately, we aren't always able to run pictures of every deserving skater at a particular event." . . . Ed.

GOOD CALLS

I would like to compliment the Focus in your February '80 issue! That picture of Jay Smith was one of the hottest photos I've ever seen. I'm also glad to see a picture of a real backyard pool again! You should use Bill Sharp's work more often, he's got good style.

P.S. the B-52's are No. 1.
Chuck "Woolery" Hutes
Somewhere, Tennessee

Hey! The Devo interview was great and so was the Light Board Symposium. Let's see some more of the same!

Neal Blaedorn
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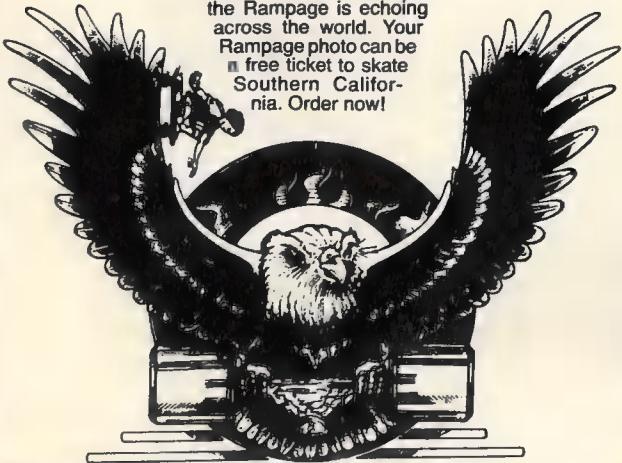


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I just got done reading your Light Board Symposium article and looking through your mag. The article was great. It gave me a lot of good info.

Pat Roberts
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Hey you guyz, we really appreciate you putting skiboarding in your mag. Keep up the rad work.

Mr. Bill & Mr. Hands
Sonora, California

BIKES

I am writing to protest the article about these guys on the bikes. Don't get me wrong, I think they're rad, but I thought SKATEBOARDER was a magazine that covered skating, not bicycling. Are you that desperate for readers?

P.S. Skaters rule!
Joe Pinto

I would like to comment on your coverage of sports other than skateboarding. Like the snowboarding, BMX cycling, and sandboarding. Even if they are not skateboard related (although most covered have been), they show the versatility of us skateboarders and that we have other interests too. Most of us are not *completely* skateboard addicted and like to see other sports just as wild. If you are holding back any new stuff, turn it loose and let's see it.

"Phil Dirt"
Louisville, Kentucky

ROCK

Thanks a lot for the Devo and Ramones interviews (Vol. 6, No. 5; Vol. 6, No. 7). How 'bout one with my next favorite band—the Talking Heads? If you can and it does happen, please ask this question, "What is I Zimbra?"

Bob Foley
Oreland, Pa.

In the last few issues you have had group articles—punk rock!! I don't hate punk or New Wave, but I prefer groups like Van Halen, Styx, Judas Priest, AC/DC, Black Sabbath, Nazareth, Blue Oyster Cult, Kansas, Rush, Triumph, Ted Nugent, Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith and Boston.

Matt Bourg
Corpus Christi, Texas

Why are you out there so slow? Punk was the big thing over here two years ago. I look through your column and am depressed by the sort of stuff you review. The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac . . . over-commercialized stuff. As for the polls you run, they show even worse taste—Led Zeppelin, Ted Nugent, Charlie Daniels

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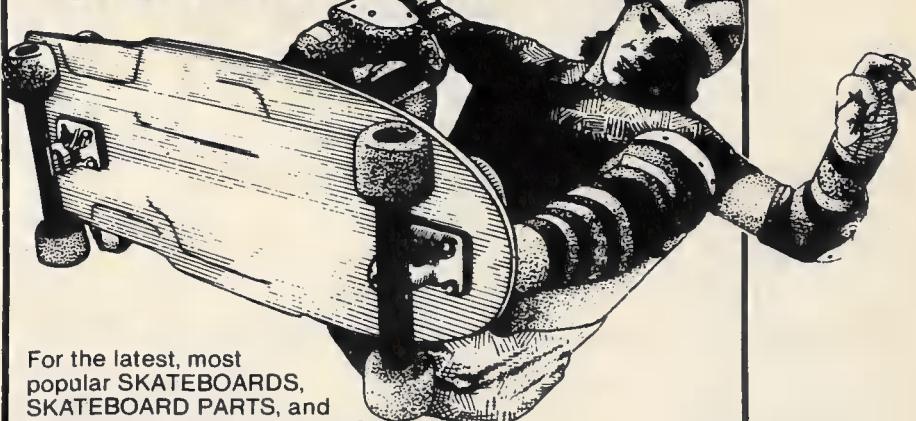
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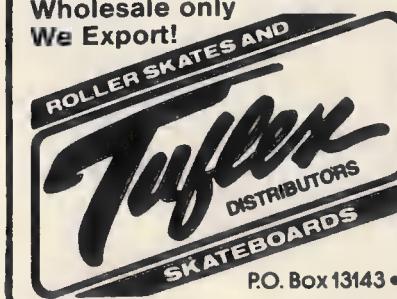
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Mark "Porko" Parson
England

Your mag is No. 1. It's the best. But your punk interviews have got to go. Devo, the Ramones, etc., aren't good enough for your mag. If you want a rockin' interview, the Motor City Madman is the rockin'-est. Ted Nugent is SKATEBOARDER quality and an interview with him would be hot!

Bell Crest Boys
Toms River, N.J.

"We've been endeavoring to cover all the top rock groups among our readership. By the way, this issue it is Ted! (See pp. 74-78)." . . . Ed.

NETWORKS

In the January "Skate Post" you said that the readers should write to the networks about contest coverage. One detail is missing: the networks' addresses. If skating gets on the tube, it will really take off. When the Runway Pro contest was telecast last summer, everybody I know was stoked. My father was actually screaming every time someone caught air! Please print this letter because I know many other skaters would like the addresses too.

Jeff Aiken
Henderson, North Carolina

"Write to the networks at the following addresses with attention to Sports Programming Director:

ABC
1330 Avenue of the Americas
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NEW PRODUCTS

Due to the success of our recent "Lite Board Symposium" (Vol. 6, No. 7), we will be doing across-the-board testing of various types of skate products (i.e., trucks, wheels, etc.) on a periodic basis. We feel this will be of a greater benefit to the reader, as well as the industry, than our previous monthly service of testing new products only. For that reason, this column will reinstitute the practice of simply introducing new products as they are released. **

FLITE ROCKET is a 46½" long wood laminate snowboard. The plan shape curves from 9" in the nose area, inward to 8¼", and then outward again to 9¼" in the tail. Also, the mid-rearward section is curved downward, which, together with metal strips on the rear rails, is intended to enhance edge control and turning. An adjustable rubber strap acts as a binding for aerials and general maneuvering.

WALKER SHAWN PEDDIE MODEL features routed wheel wells and rail grabs. More full in the tail than nose, this laminate deck comes in size 30" x 10.5".

Z-FLEX PLUMER LITE-LAM is, as the name implies, a light laminate deck. The contour is full with a slight outward flair at the kicktail. Available in 30½" x 10½" only.

Z-FLEX PLUMER WINGER is a smaller version of the above (27" x 9¼"), developed for younger, lighter skaters. The overall design is the same, except for the noticeably concave curve of the deck (and corresponding convex bottom). ☺



Flite Rocket



Walker Shawn Peddie Model



Z-Flex Plumer Lite-Lam



Z-Flex Plumer Winger

**Manufacturers with new products should supply this column with a full breakdown on the product, its suggested retail price, a photo of the product, and the product itself for future testing.

Skateboarder Interview:



PHOTOGRAPH BY CASSIMUS

micke
alba

by Don Hoffman

What does it mean to be Micke Alba, 13 years of age, and the winner of the Hester Pro Bowl Series—probably the most credible professional bowl competition to date? Is it the top of the mountain with no place to go but down? Or is it the first of many more successes to come? What's more, what is it like to be Steve Alba's little brother—a help or a hindrance? What is in the immediate future for Micke? More pool competition or a change of scenery? I personally have known the entire Alba family since the thoughts of building a skateboard park in our area took me to the scene of much local ripping, the now infamous L-Pool. There I observed several fairly hot riders, but one appeared to really be dedicated to perfecting his skills. I also noticed that he was frequently accompanied by his dad and a real gutsy little guy about 3½ feet tall. Since I was researching, it was natural that I entered into conversation with these people. I discovered their name was Alba, that they lived in Montclair, and the older son (then 13) was Steve, and the younger was Micke (pronounced like the mouse). The Alba brothers had been skating about a year, and were enthusiastic about the idea of a skateboard park—but only if it had vertical!

It followed that when The Pipeline became a reality, Steve and Micke became part of the park's skate team and Liz and Jerry Alba became familiar faces, frequenting the park to watch and encourage their progeny. Micke, like Steve, progressed rapidly, often influenced by the heavy "sessioning" of the older Badlands rippers. I remember some of the most intense skating possible occurring when top "name" riders arrived at the park and the locals would go all out to show that they were as good or better.

This kind of ambition can be seen in Micke and in Steve before him.

It wasn't too long ago at the Hester 1st Pro Bowl contest at Spring Valley, that Micke was celebrating his brother's triumph in the first professional bowl contest. (In fact, he celebrated a bit too much and got sick all over my bed at the motel!) Later that year Micke was to enter the last Hester of the season at the Big O where Steve again took top honors. Micke didn't blow away any bowl riders at the contest, but turned in a competitive performance in the one-wheeler event. Since that pro debut, Micke has continued to be a tough competitor. He established himself as the man to beat in the Hester '79 Series and managed to hold that celebrated position throughout.

Along with fame and fortune can come great pressure. Now, at 14, it seems that

Micke is somewhat tired of that pressure and, perhaps, would just like to be a regular kid for awhile.

How about that Mickey? You haven't been riding much lately. Rumor has it that you are not going to skateboard anymore. Do you still skateboard?
Yeah, I do. I do a lot!

Well, we haven't seen you skate that much until just recently. Why weren't you skating before? How come you didn't compete in the Winchester Open or the Van's Pro at Marina Del Rey?

Well, after the Hester Series, I was just burned on skating and I wanted to let my body heal up because I was pretty sore from that contest. Then the Marina contest came up and I wasn't ready for it because I'd been resting from the Hester and I hadn't been skating for like two months straight. I just wasn't ready and I didn't feel like skating in it anyway.

Do you feel that if you are not going to be competitive then you'd better not show up at all?

Pretty much. If I'm going to enter a contest I don't want to go there and look bad. It's kind of embarrassing.

'I don't want to enter a contest and look bad. It's kind of embarrassing . . .'

Do you think everyone expects you to do well at contests?

Well, now that I've won the Hester Series, I think they probably do.

What did it feel like to win the Hester Series?

It was neat! I had a lot of fun. It was a really good feeling to know that you have done something that no one else has ever done.

Except Steve Olson.

(Laughter) Ah . . . yeah.

Steve Olson didn't win a Hester contest in '78 when he won the Series, but you won one in '79. Where did you win it?
At Boulder, Colorado.

How was Boulder?

It was a pretty fun park. The contest ran pretty neat, too. It was just a real fun contest because we went up there like two, two and a half weeks before the contest even started and we got to do a lot more things than just skate. Usually you go to a contest and all you do is skate, but there we got to go hiking in the mountains, rafting, and stuff like that. It was just fun because you got to explore another part of the world.

Frontside ollie, Combi-donk, shuv-it, end



(Opposite page)
Backsider, Upland pipe.
(Right)
Rock 'n roll into a fakie, 12 ft. bowl.

'I really want to win another contest to prove that I still can . . .'

What do you think of the Hester Series? Do you think it is the best thing that has happened in skateboarding?
If you mean for contests, yeah. It is a neat thing to have. It probably helped out skating a lot.

How do you think having Steve for a brother affected your skating?
It helped me in some ways and hurt me in some ways. The way it helped me is that Steve pushed me a lot with my skating, toward learning new tricks and stuff. But it hurt because we would always go to contests and end up fighting and getting emotional.

Do you think that Steve was disappointed when he didn't win at Upland in the final Hester?
Oh, not really, considering the fact that he had an accident just before.

Did you think you had a chance to win at Upland since it was your home park?

Yeah. I had a chance, but I blew it because I went for it and I shouldn't have. I should have just played it calm.

What do you think of Steve's new lifestyle? Since his last interview he has shaved his hair into a flat top and he is really into punk rock. He is pretty much the "punker" of the Badlands. Does that affect you and are you going to follow him?

Oh, it really doesn't affect me and I don't know if I will follow him or not. He just does pretty much what he wants to do. That's pretty much his thing now . . . skating and being punk.

Think Steve is ever going to beat you in a contest?



Probably. Don't know where or when, but someday.

Are you going to start competing in pro contests again? Like the Big O contest coming up soon?

Oh yeah, I'll be in the Big O. Definitely! It's a pretty fun park.

About pool competition . . . you know, there are all kinds of competition in life . . . sports, school, girls, etc. Pool competition is different. What do you think about competing in pools?
Well, it's fun. It's kind of weird thinking about your going up vertical walls and pulling off the tricks . . . especially bailing that high.

What's the pressure like? I mean, the fans are screaming, cameras flashing. What's it like to drop in that bowl and know you have to do well or you won't make the cut?

If you worry about it, it can hurt you a lot. But like during contests I just don't think about it. I treat it just like I'm doing a practice run. You can't think about it as being a contest . . . "Oh, I gotta do this good, and stuff . . ." Otherwise you're going to blow it.

Do you ever hear the crowd when you're in there? Or the music? Or does it just happen so fast?

I listen to the crowd sometimes, but I mainly just listen to the music and just think of it as a practice run.

Who, or what, has helped you the most in becoming a top skater?

When I was first beginning, everybody in the Badlands helped. Like, my brother Steve, and John Hawthorne helped me a lot. But I think the person who has really helped me the most is David Morin.

Does it affect you now that Dave is not working with Kryptonics and is with the magazine?

Not really, but it's kind of weird 'cause usually he'd come up to Upland every two weeks or so and he'd help me out on my skating. I don't know, I kind of help myself now, but it's a little change.

Since you have just recently turned 14, do you feel that maybe you've peaked out as far as poolriding goes?

I don't understand what you mean.

Do you think you have reached your "ultimate" level or are there still things that you can accomplish?

Oh, there are still things that I can accomplish! What I really want to do now is win another contest, to prove to myself that I can still win one after winning the Hester Series and after not entering two pro contests.

We hear that you are really into slalom now. Why?

It's just fun. John Hawthorne, Terry Martin, and Steve Evans told me to try it



(Right)

Rock 'n' roll boardslide, Combi-pool.

(Opposite page)

Fakie ollie, Combi-pool.

**'You've just got to
keep trying and never
give up . . .'**

one day when they were at the park practicing, but I told them, "Naw, I don't like to do it." But they talked me into trying it and I thought it was fun. So they fixed me up with a slalom board and stuff and all of a sudden I got into it and started having a lot of fun doing it.

How does it compare with poolriding?
I don't have an answer for that one.

Well, in one you are competing against other people and being judged by people on your performance. In the other it is strictly you against a clock—time is all that counts. Which do you like better?

Well, I like poolriding better. I know you are depending on a judge's opinion of how well you are doing. In slalom it is more just . . . go for it! You know, you go fast and every time you go you just try to go faster and do better. If you do that in pools you usually mess up.

What do you see in the future for slalom and poolriding?

They'll probably continue to be popular. There isn't anything else to do.

Some people might disagree with that, but let's get back to your skating this past year. Did you learn a lot of new things or did you stick pretty much with your stuff that you knew real well?

I learned some new things but I did stick pretty close to things I knew I could do well. But now there are a lot more tricks out and the competitors are going to have to learn them. They aren't going to be able to stick with the old stuff now.

So you think it is not only important to be bionic but also to be able to pull off all the tricks there are and do them well?



That's right. You have to have all the basics down clean, then you try all the new tricks and work them into a bionic routine. If you can pull it all off without falling or having to bail, you have it made.

Do you have any advice for the little guys that are just getting into skating, like where you were a couple of years ago? Anything that might help them to get to be a top pro skater?

Well, you've got to keep trying and never give up. Just have a fun time while you're doing it.

I hear you're also really getting into rink roller skating, what about that?
I like to roller skate. It's pretty fun. I did it even before I started skateboarding. It's just fun like to go speed skating and to go out and have a lot of fun with your friends.

I hear that Steve is into this too. What makes you keep going back to the rink all the time?

I don't know, I just like to do it . . . go there on Friday and Saturday nights and be there with all of your friends. It is just something to do in your spare time.

Is it true a lot of girls hang out at the roller rink?

Yeah, they do. There are a lot of them around this area.

Do you think you might ever roller skate competitively like you have in skateboarding?

I doubt it, because I pretty much only do it in my spare time. If I were to get into it and go to contests I would have to start doing it every night, training and stuff. But I really don't have time for that.

So you think that to do anything well takes a lot of time?

Yeah, pretty much. It takes a little bit of time, at least.

I understand you were taking karate lessons . . . are you still?

No, my instructor moved away, so I stopped. But I'm going to start again at another studio.

Why karate lessons?

I don't know. I just wanted to get into it. It was something else to do. I had a lot of fun doing it. I don't know . . . maybe I can beat up my brother some day. (Laughter)

Is that your goal . . . to beat up your brother?

Ha ha ha . . . no, not really, I just want to get high up in the belts.

Do you think it will help your skateboarding to have karate skills? Will it help your coordination?

Definitely. It helps your coordination because you have to do a lot of weird things with your feet and body.



(Right and opposite page)

Pipe jump, Upland.

'They all think I've got so much money. I have a lot, but . . .'

Inouye and Strople tell me they have been surfing with you and that you definitely have the potential to be a really hot surfer. Where does surfing fit into your life right now?

I don't know. It's just another thing to do on Sunday mornings. It's fun to go out there. I used to be really afraid of the water, but John Hawthorne got me into surfing quite a bit. We usually go every Sunday morning now.

How does surfing relate to skateboarding? Or do you think they are not related at all?

They're related in some ways, but not too many. Surfing is like a whole different thing.

Do you think a good surfer would make a good skateboarder, and vice versa?

Well, it would take a lot of practice either way, but you could probably do it. If you really wanted to . . . it wouldn't just be automatic.

It seems that you are stretching your time out between a lot of different things. Is this going to affect your skateboarding? You say it takes a lot of practice. Are you going to be able to practice enough to stay competitive?

Oh yes! I'm going to stick with skateboarding. I practice more in skateboarding than anything else. Those other things I pretty much do in my spare time. With skateboarding, everyday after school I'm up there skating or training, or whatever you want to call it.

You're still riding for Kryptonic right now. What's in the future for you and the Kryptonic Corporation?

Well, I'll probably stay with them.

They've pretty much always treated me

good and they are treating me good right now, so I'll probably stay with them.

Have you ever thought of going with another team?

I've thought about it, yeah, but right now the skateboard business is kind of low and most companies are cutting back on their teams. They don't have much money to pay pro skaters. No team is looking for anybody.

Is Krypto going to come out with a new board for you?

Yes, I think so.

Who do you think is going to be your top competition in 1980?

Pretty much the same as it has been. Eddie Elguera is going to be really tough and another top amateur, Steve Caballero. If he turns pro, he's really going to be tough!

Have you ever thought of giving it all up and going into something entirely different . . . say BMX racing or soccer, something like that?

I thought about it right after the Hester Series, but I'm not going to do anything like that. If I'm going to start to do something and get heavily into it, I usually stick with it.

Then you are going to stick with skateboarding as long as there is skateboarding?

Yes, I am.

What else do you do in your spare time that we haven't discussed already?

Nothing much. I have a girlfriend.

Does your girlfriend take a lot of time away from practice?

No, not really. I just go over to her house every once in awhile and stuff.

When you go to school do you get treated differently because kids have seen your picture in the magazine and know you are a skateboard celebrity? Sometime, but not really too much.

You're not more popular because you're a famous skateboarder?

Yeah. Yeah, I am.

Do they think you've got a lot of money because you're in the magazine and stuff?

Yeah, they all think I've got so much money. I have a lot, but not that much.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I don't know. I'm not thinking about that right now. I'll just worry about that when the time comes.

Well, I guess we've about covered it. Do you have anything you want to say to your fans?

Well, I . . . ah . . . this is hard! I don't know what to say . . . just keep skating and have fun! ☺





Special Tips

PART II

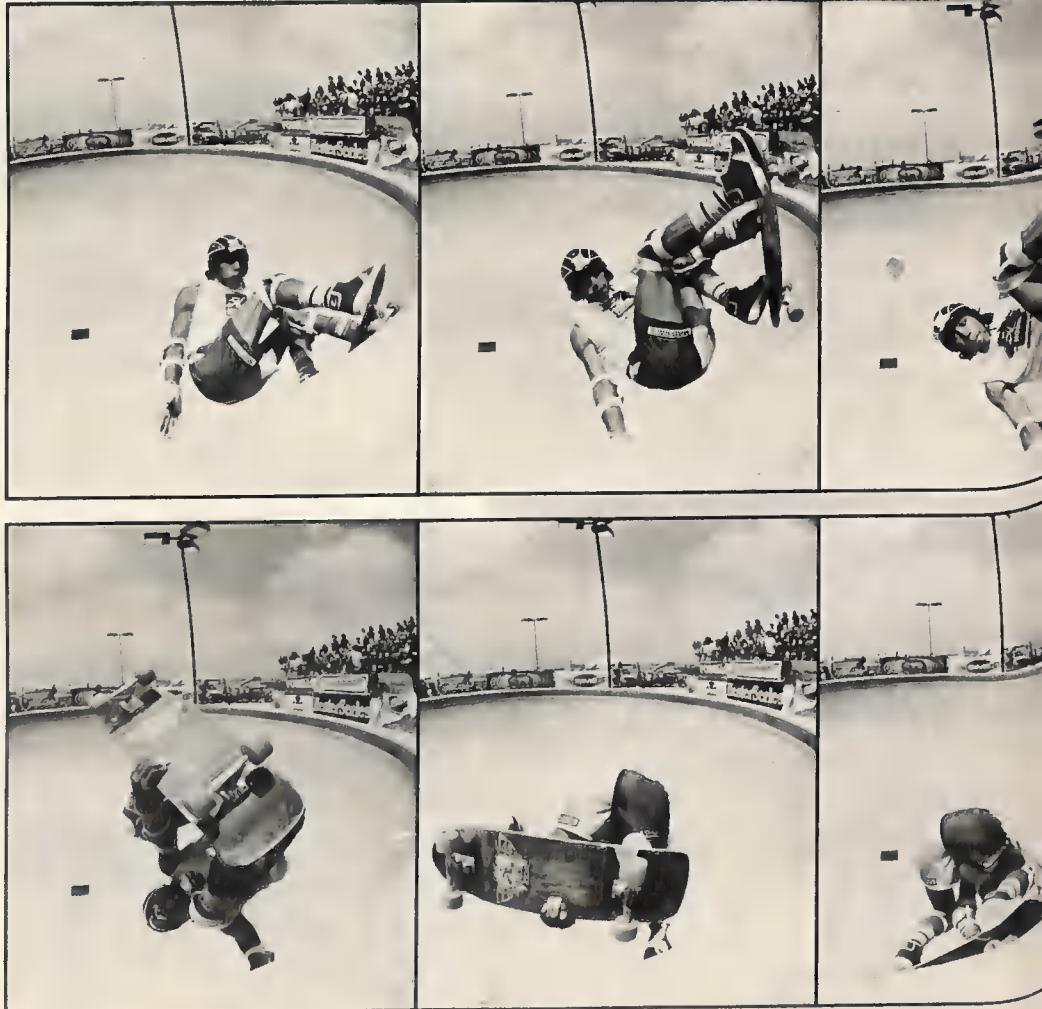
Fakie Flip

by Eddie Elguera

I did my first fakie flip, or "Elgarrio," about two weeks before Hester # 2 in Boulder. Dale Smith and I were practicing something similar to it, when Dale suggested that I take it all the way around into a 360. Eventually I pulled it off.

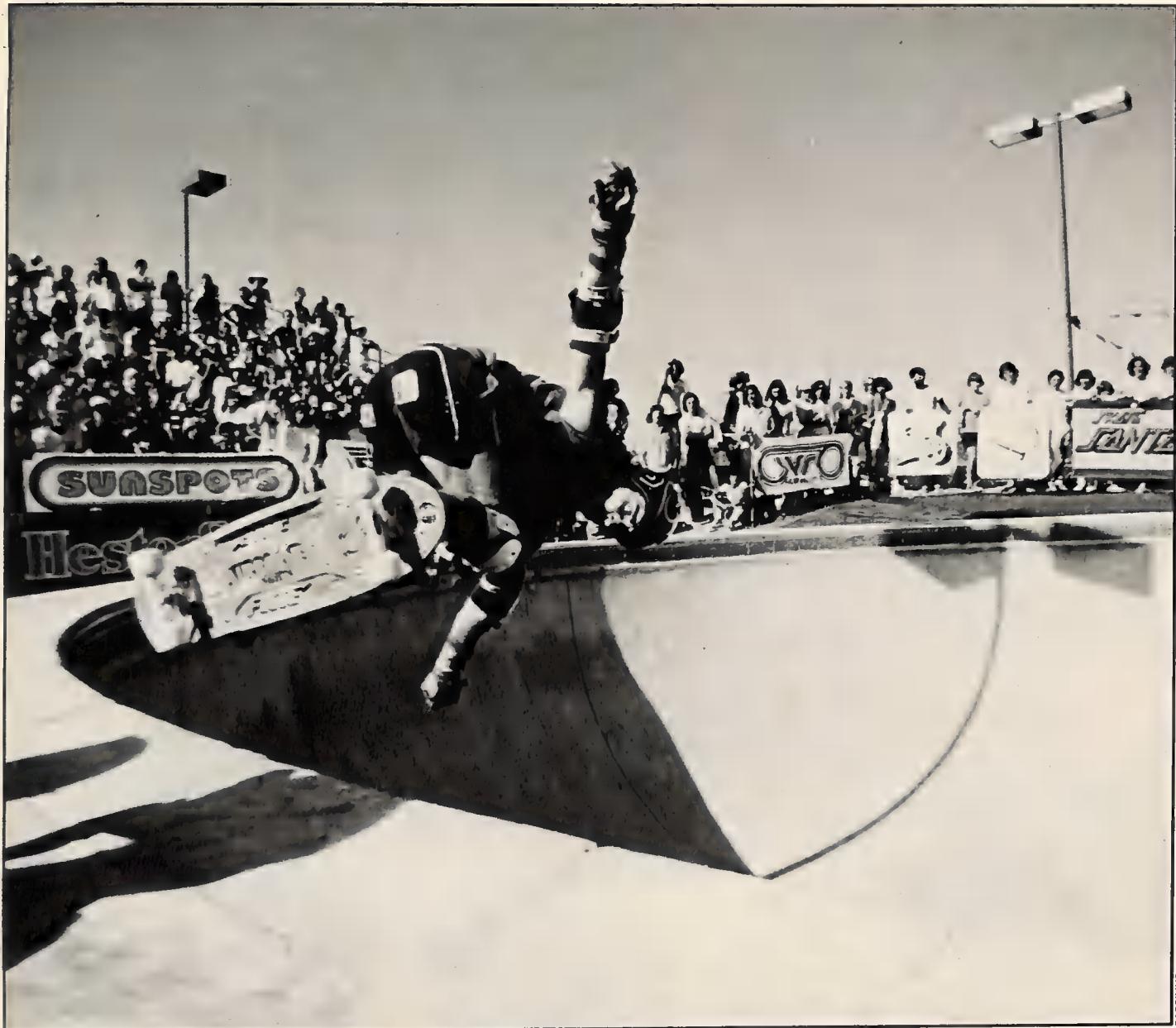
Start off in a fakie. As you're going up the opposite wall, grab your rail as you would on an invert. Pull off the wall and twist your body backward similar to a fakie 360. The gravity will throw you back around. When you're at this stage, just bring it around like a regular invert, and there you've got it!

Before attempting this trick you should know how to do an invert. Also try the fakie flip on semi-vertical first.



(Right and opposite page)
Eddie's fakie flip helped push vertical skating toward a new plateau in 1979.





CASSIMUS

"Use your body thrust to pop out of the bowl . . ." J.T. Air debut, Del Mar Hester.

Backside No-Hands Air

by Jeff Tatum

My skate buddies and I refer to this move as "J.T.air," although it is also called a backside no-hander. The name "ollie" belongs to Alan Gelfand and his frontside no-hands aerial, and has nothing to do with me or my maneuver. I first did it a few months before the Del Mar Pro, but actually debuted it in the contest. It came together in mellow keyholes, shallow ends and while doing Nukeland pipe transfers. Mainly I just wanted to do a new trick and I was willing to work hard at it.

First off, keep your speed down; use your body thrust to pop out of the bowl more than your speed. Footing is a lot

like the footing for a rock walk. Back foot should be on the inside rail with your toes hanging over. Front foot on the outside rail with your heel hanging over.

You'll need to stay compressed, leaning into the bowl always. With your back foot doing all the work, pop your back wheels (not your tail) off the coping. Relax, then with your front foot taking over, press and steer the nose back into the bowl. Your front wheels should land a little before your back wheels.

Equipment weight is an important factor in doing a backside no-hander.

I recommend Tracker Magnesium Extraxt Trucks. Also, I wouldn't even attempt it without my 35-inch Airborne Flite. Fast wheels are likewise necessary, my preference being Gyros.

Of course, complete safety equipment should be worn. It's a good idea to learn a few good stretch exercises to prevent muscle injuries. Try all new tricks with a clear head. Check your skateboard hardware before skating.

Take it mellow and with control—and, most importantly, have fun!

Invert Revert

by Duane Peters

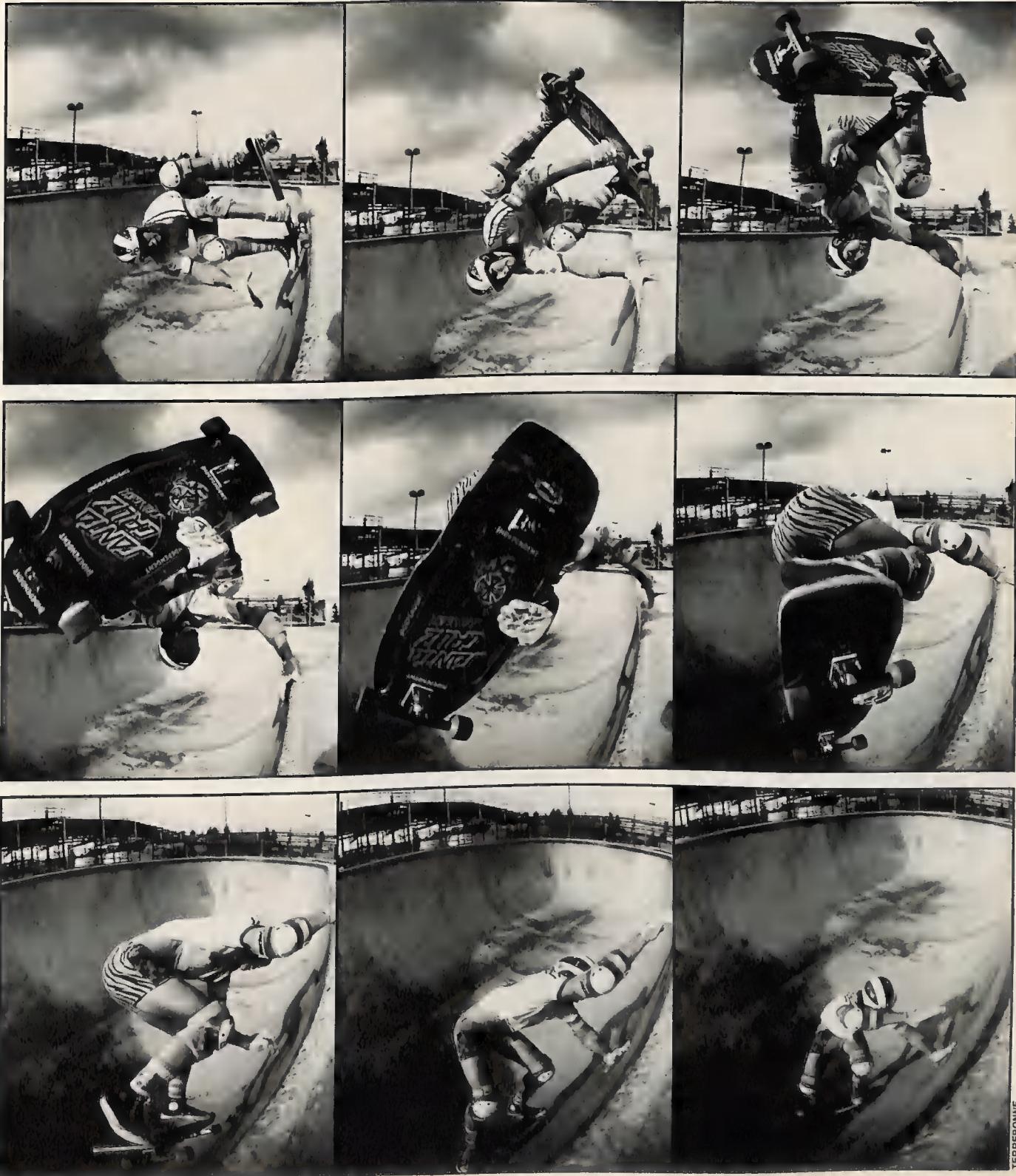
Duane's skating is often a step beyond believable. Invert revert, Big O.

I first made this trick about two or three months ago after seeing Darrell and Eddie do their 360 aerials.

If you can already do inverts this trick will come to you a lot easier. Start on banks doing kickturns and grabbing your inner rail while swinging around into a fakie. Practice this until you can revert fluidly.

Now take it to a steeper bank or a slightly vertical wall of a pool. Try lifting the board off the wall before you revert and work your way up to the lip. Soon you'll get the motion down so you can take it above the edge.

Make sure you wear gloves and hip pads while learning this one. Good luck.



Park Roller Skating

by Fred Blood

Although not a trick per se, side stance or side skating is the beginning stance for all my maneuvers. Though this type of stance was not specifically developed for vertical terrain, many, if not most, of my moves could not be performed to their full extent using any other stance. Many park or bank riders have tried riding parallel, but only a fraction continue to use this stance. Below are described the stance and its pivotal balance points. Remember, if all else fails, read the directions . . .

BEGINNING STEPS

First, determine your lead foot by finding which direction, right or left, your body feels most comfortable to be heading in. Attempt this first on flat ground, although you'll eventually find it easier to maintain the stance with more speed. There is no specific advantage to the right or left foot lead, so experiment with both. Some of you will naturally fall into the stance; others will find it a longer process. Again, work with it. In this position, the center of

your weight is balanced between the two centers of motion—your skates—much like your weight is balanced on a skateboard.

MANEUVERING ON BANKS

Once you feel comfortable on flatland or banks, your next step is to try a motion which will, in the language of vertical, translate into "frontside skating." If you lead with your right foot, steer or lean your body weight right to turn to your right. If your lead is with the left foot, steer or lean left. You will be able to maneuver through a banked slalom course when you become proficient. Try skating frontside on banks or any steep grades until you become comfortable with higher speeds. The stance remains the same on flatland or vertical, with the only major difference being the pitch on vertical. As you descend from the steepest point of the vertical, you adjust by compressing (bending at the knees) to absorb any change in your center of gravity.

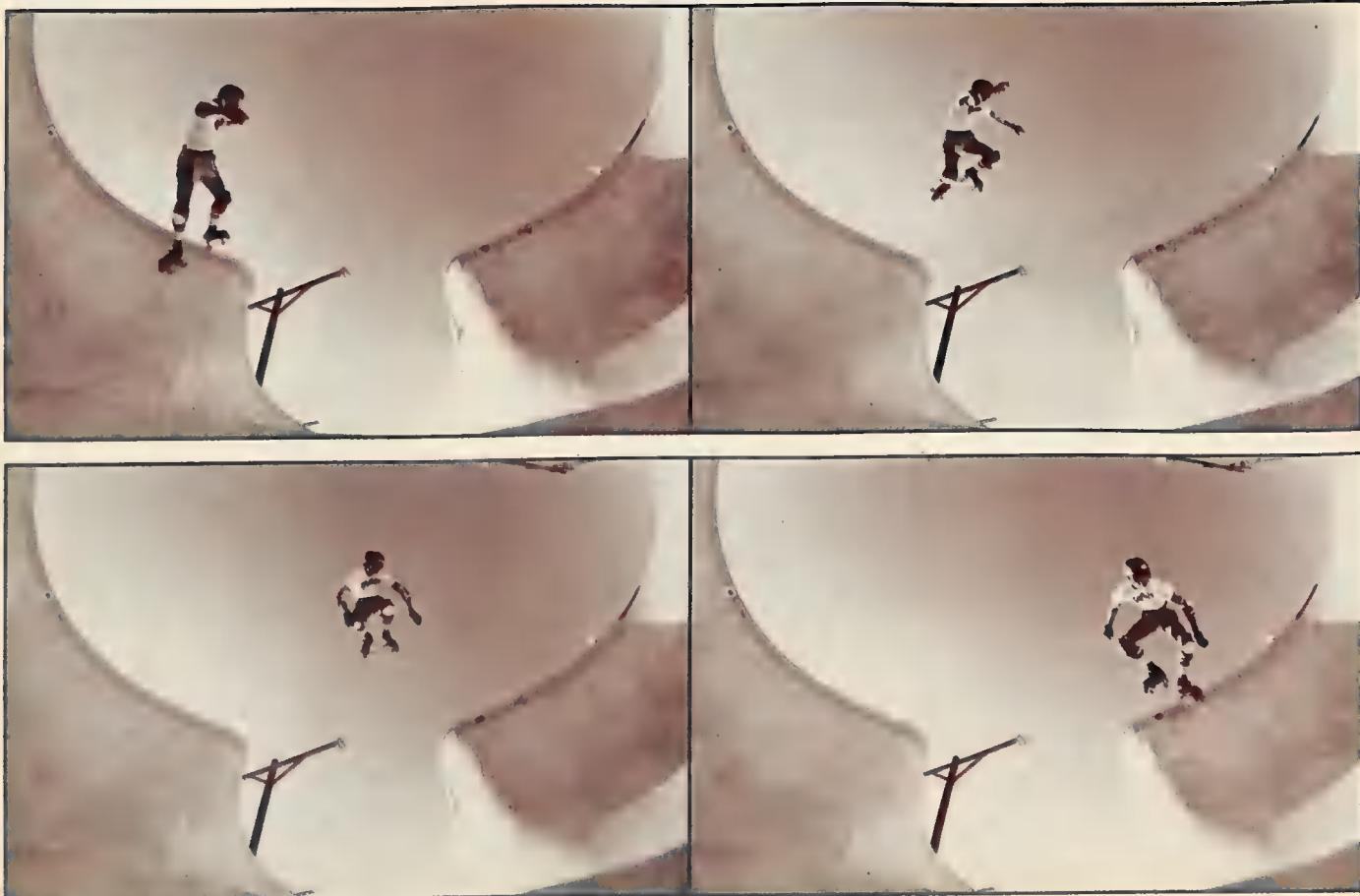
MAINTAINING SPEED—THE PUMP

Maintaining speed is the next hurdle to cross. This requires learning to pump. There's a basic formula to maintaining speed on banked or vertical surfaces:

- 1) Once again, as you come down the bank or wall, compress your knees to compensate for the pitch.
- 2) Decompress (unbend your knees) at the transition and across the flat area of the pool or reservoir area. This decompression will give you a spurt of speed.
- 3) Compress again as you reach the transition or upgrade, maximizing your tuck at the top of the wall.
- 4) Complete the compress/decompress cycle again. Note: Although I've described the pumping action in steps, it is a very fluid motion. With practice you will begin to feel the flow.

The next step involves pumping yourself right out of the pool into the air . . . but that's a topic for another time.

Fred uses the basic side stance and pump as the foundation for all his moves. Jumping the opening, Marina.



CASSIMUS



TERREBONIE

Matt has created more than his share of masterful freestyle moves. Sequential M-80.

M-80

by Matt Barden

I did my first M-80 in June, 1978, a week before the Oceanside Pro Contest. It developed in an effort to derive a new kickflip from Pineapple's 1-80.

Begin by rolling slowly with the board tail first, and, standing in the center of the board, do a regular kickflip. While in

the air, twist only the lower half of your body so that your feet land goofy foot. (Note: Your upper body should not twist.). When the board has made its revolution in the air, land both feet with your tail foot on the tail, pushing slightly down and twisting to regular foot. This action will be facilitated by using your

arms for counter balance.

When first learning this maneuver, keep your eyes on the tail and roll very slowly. Another good way to learn it is to start on grass.

Have fun with the M-80 and happy landings.



Darrell Miller's "Miller Flip" has proven one of the moves of 1979. Skate City, Whittier.

Miller Flip Or 360 Aerial

by Darrell Miller

I saw Stacy Peralta do his aerial bert and then I got the idea of taking it upside down. I completed my first 360 aerial in June of last year.

Start off by going straight up the wall and then squat down and grab the outside rail. Next, pull the board with a snap of the wrist and bring it over you as you tuck. In doing so, your body

must be centered with the top of the board or else you'll be thrown off balance while landing. When landing on the wall, stay tucked for awhile so the board doesn't shoot out from under you.

As for precautions, be sure to wear all your safety gear, including hip pads. Go to it and good luck! ☺



UTAH...

BEYOND DONNY & MARE



Story and Photography
by Jim Goodrich

The phone rings for the fourth time before I finally lift the receiver and struggle out a simple, "Yeah?" It's my longtime friend George Wilkes from Provo, Utah, land of Donny and Marie. He is now head of Intermountain Distributing along with Bob Deagley. George informs me that the Rocky Mountain Surf Skatepark is having a contest and he is anxious to introduce SKATEBOARDER Magazine and me to the Utah skate scene. I inform him that there's some important skate competition being held in Southern California that same week. He relates the great Rocky Mountain high that I would be missing. I opt for the high, knowing, at the very least, my lungs will love me for it.

My plane arrives in Salt Lake City, and as soon as I'm on the ground a smiling local greets me. Unfortunately, this deceptively straight looking character merely wants to trade eternal bliss for some spare change. I mean, the guy didn't even have the requisite pajamas and pony tail!

I soon spot my comrades George Wilkes and Arnie Hogue. Their Mellow Cat and SKATEBOARDER t-shirts prove a dead giveaway. We are off.

Our first stop is the key spot in the city, the Rocky Mountain Surf Skatepark, which is nestled at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

I spend the afternoon noting the various talented skaters at the park and am quite impressed with what I see. Phil Serieka, recently transplanted from California, has quickly adjusted to the new terrain, not to mention the

increased altitude. Local park team skaters Jerry Garcia and Arnie Hogue also power the runs and the wooden halfpipe, which is generally the favorite part of the park and definitely the most heavily shredded.

After spending a pleasant evening with George and his family in Provo, Friday arrives bright, clear and full of color. George and I drive out past the Osmond Studios heading up into Provo Canyon and the Rockies beyond. As we pull into Sundance Valley, he points out the most prominent peak, Mt. Timpanogos, which overshadows the ski resort there. Timpanogos is an old Indian word meaning "virgin woman lying down," but I fail to see any resemblance.

We spend the afternoon winding through the high mountain passes scoping out a possible location for a



(Opposite page)

John Raymer was among some of Utah's finest skaters on hand for two days of hard ripping amid a stunning Rocky Mountain backdrop... but where were Donny and Marie?

(Left)

Salt Lake proved a thriving religious, financial and skating center. Brian Gochnour grinds Romney's ramp.

(Below)

Local ramp champion Andy Brewer is highly regarded for his multifaceted approach toward local terrain. Backside air, Romney's.



photo session with George's portable halfpipe. We eventually end up back in Provo and begin making preparations for the contest which begins tomorrow.

All of the contestants arrive early, a practice rarely observed by California skaters. The energy is up and there is much encouragement and rooting by both the crowd and fellow contestants. It is definitely something of a community affair.

The day begins with the freestyle competition, which proves a fun event for the skaters. Ronnie Brown and Robert Hogue put in unbelievable routines. Robert could easily compete against any pro skater in the country with his smooth, natural style. George Wilkes does his own version of freestyle with numerous flatland footplants and other assorted antics.

The snake run competition brings out

the hardcore skaters of the Utah area and promises to be of a much faster pace. Dave Traynor stands out with his complete use of the park during his routine and Alex Dupree also slides into a first place with strong, flowing passes through the three snake runs. Andy Brewer has the park wired but it is Chris Gochnour, local skate wiz, who earns the first place spot. The park's manager, Gary Goodman, proves that he can skate the park as well as he can run it and takes first in his age group.

The final event, and the most long-awaited, is on the halfpipe ramp. Arnie Hogue, the obvious favorite, unfortunately cannot compete because of his pro status.

Kevin Neagle, Bob Maggard and Andy Brewer have the halfpipe down to an art, though there are many strong skaters fighting for the top position.

Troy Lindquist does well, professing to be a self-made talent and shunning all claim to fame through media channels. Andy Brewer, his stamina, style and versatility far above his competition, earns a first. The skaters pull off even the most difficult of maneuvers on the vertical. Bionic rock 'n roll sliders, handplants, laybacks and ollie airs are among the strongest moves exhibited.

In spite of the mass energy drain of the contest, everyone decides it's time to celebrate, so we head up Cottonwood Canyon to about 11,000 feet up in the Rockies. Arnie, Jerry Garcia, Scott Nagle, John Raymer and other friends attend. I suddenly find myself flying at 90 mph up Guardman's Pass in Scott's Porsche, which is completely stocked with those things necessary to ward off the cold 10 degree night. After tucking in the

(Opposite page)

Hogue matches the brilliance of his skating to that of the color in Sundance Valley.

(Above right)

Rocky Mountain Surf Skatepark, Salt Lake City.

(Below right)

California transplant Arnie Hogue has long been a source of inspiration and guidance for the local skate populous. Romney's ramp, Salt Lake.

(Below)

Raymer on edge but in full control at Sundance.



Porsche for the night and hiking by starlight a mile to the lake, our heads are spinning from the lack of oxygen. After the fire is blazing, everyone begins reminiscing over the day's skating until they eventually drop off, oblivious to the cold and the rustling of creatures in the woods around us.

Morning breaks none too soon for most of us as our appendages had begun to freeze during the night when the fire went out. We collect our wits and our belongings, and I begin to plan our skating expedition up Provo Canyon.

Colorful Sundance Valley opens up before us as Arnie and I drive down into the ski resort followed by George Wilkes, Bob Deagley, John Raymer and Phil Serieka with the portable wooden halfpipe.

We soon have the ramp set up amid

the hills of the ski resort, which will soon be covered in Utah's famous powdered snow. Completely surrounded by aspen and evergreen trees and shadowed by the ominous Timpanogos Mountain, Arnie, Phil and John begin to give this valley a show never before seen in its history. Arnie and John are pulling off some rock 'n rolls, airs and other intensities, while Phil blazes his frontside handplants.

In spite of the tippy supports of the ramp, the skating is fun and surely a challenge to even the most seasoned skater. We session till evening when the sun disappears over the mountain and the stifling valley chill once again sets in.

In the city of Salt Lake, there is a wooden halfpipe constructed in John Romney's backyard alongside a stream. The ramp is quite impressive

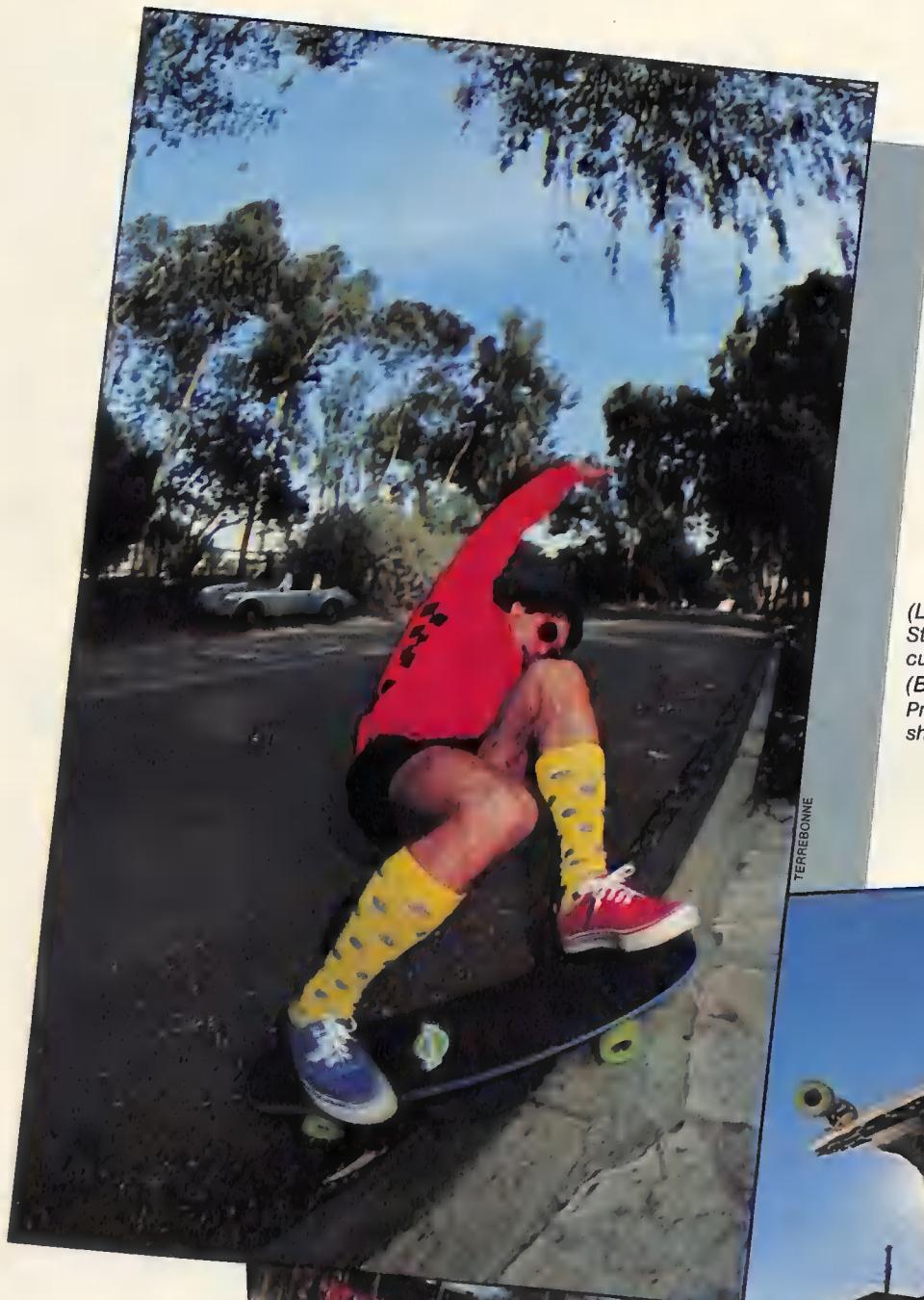
nestled among several towering trees. No time is wasted in ripping it up as locals John Raymer, Marco Alvarez, John Romney, Chris Gochnour and Andy Brewer join in. Raymer and Brewer have the strongest lines, with Andy pulling off some hot ollie airs, rock 'n rolls and backside air. Though the ramp is one of the best local spots I've seen, I have a reservation which requires my presence at the airport within the hour.

My friends are more than helpful in getting me to the plane on time, although a radar machine had something to do with it, too.

There is much to be said for the Utah skaters. This spring the skatepark even plans to remain open through the use of heaters and overhead covers. And as for myself, I have a date soon to return to Timpanogos—the mountains that is! ☺



FOCUS

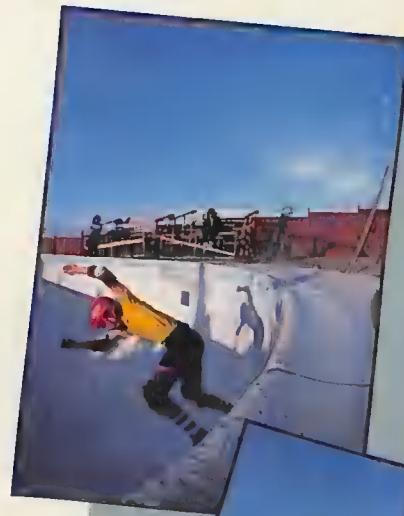


(Left)
Steve Rocco finds a new wave along an old curb in Palos Verdes.

(Below)
Prominent amateur Steve Lippman cuts a sharp arc at Reseda SkaterCross.



Flying ace Alan Gelfand shows his wings on a pogo at Marina.



GAZOMUS





SkateBoarder

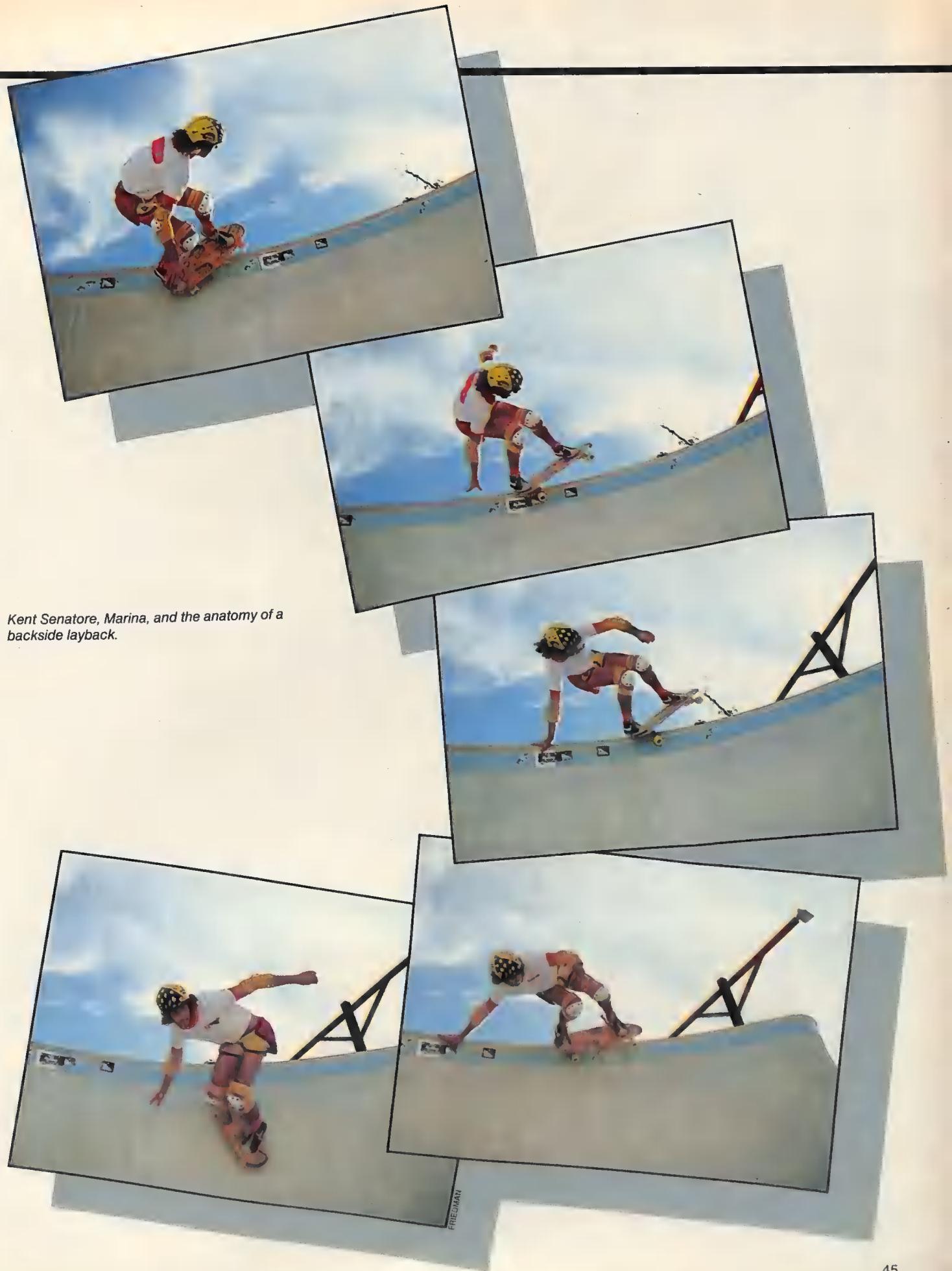
MAGAZINE

The artistry of the skater matches that of the
photographer... Kenil Sowndares our
backside layback at Meems

(Right)
Good air quality has more than one meaning
for Mike Folmer at Palm Beach.

(Below)
Deano Mueller betrays the intensity of the
moment at Oasis.



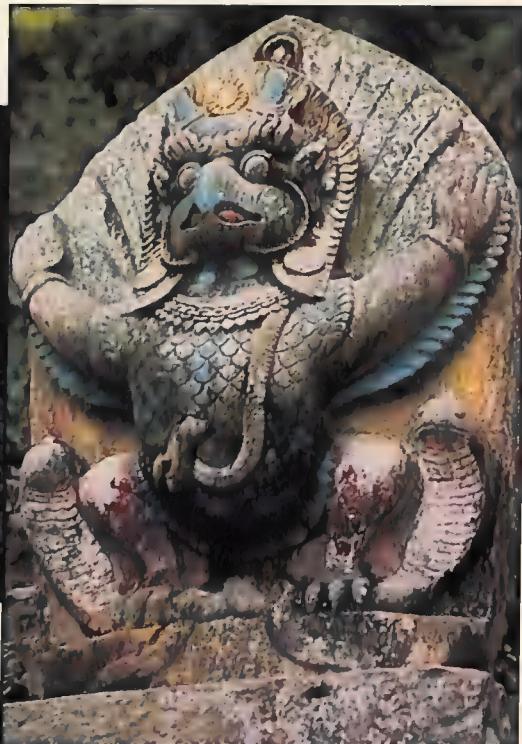


Kent Senatore, Marina, and the anatomy of a backside layback.

TEPI

HIMALAYAN HIGH

Story and Photography
by Dennis Coffee, M.D.



(Above left)
View from Base Camp III, 18,000 feet.

(Above)
On the trail to Annapurna III.

(Above right)
Nepal is a country with rich traditions.

(Left)
Highland adults were reluctant to give the
skate up to the children.

(Below)
Snow plume off nearby Machapuchare in
the late afternoon. Winds on these peaks
often reach speeds in excess of 100 m.p.h.



The hunters watched as the two men emerged from the dense jungle at the foot of the long, rocky slope where they met.

The man in the lead was small and brown skinned. He was clad only in thin cotton shorts and a faded t-shirt. His feet were bare. Several circular red marks on his lower legs betrayed recent leech bites. On his left leg near a misshapen and scarred ankle one of the small creatures was hanging from its suction cup-like mouth, just out of the man's range of vision. On his back he wore a frame pack topped by an unfamiliar object that instantly aroused the hunter's curiosity.

The second man was dressed in similar fashion with the addition of a pair of tennis shoes, no socks. He was light skinned with dark hair and a beard. His legs also revealed recent leech bites. This man wore a pack as well, but the hunters' attention was now riveted on the object carried by the brown skinned man.

Kem Mugar was twenty-seven years old during the four months of August through November of 1978. He was the smaller of the two men. A professional Nepalese guide, Kem was seeing service as the mail runner for the American Annapurna III Expedition. The second man was me. During that same period of time I was the doctor for the expedition, as well as one of the seven climbers who were attempting to climb the 24,787 foot mountain called Annapurna III without oxygen or sherpa support. A low budget expedition for



(Above)

South face of Annapurna III. Dr. Coffee will be leading another American expedition on this unclimbed face in 1989.

(Left)

Author and highland village locals.

(Below)

Expedition member scales a 3700 foot vertical section.



sure! Atop Kem's pack was a skateboard. This would have seemed rather out of place to the highland hunters if they had known what it was. Never having seen a road, concrete slabs, or even a vehicle with wheels, they had nothing to relate it to however.

"Namaste."

An exchange of the traditional greeting as we join the hunters around their bamboo fire.

One of the hunters gestures to the skateboard.

"Helicopter," says Kem with a grin as he turns the glowing end of a freshly lit cigarette on the unsuspecting leech.

Helicopter is the name he has applied to my skateboard since first seeing a 360. These hunters have seen rescue helicopters fly overhead enroute to the Himalayas many times, though. On several occasions one of the choppers has even landed near the men's village and they can see that this small device is not the same thing. Several hunters voice their disbelief but Kem has

anticipated their reaction and is already unstrapping the skateboard. A nearby flat rock provides the site for a limited demo. Soon the hunters have laid down their rifles and are taking turns trying out this device that has the power to throw a man farther than the best wrestler. As they fall with sickening thuds and loud grunts their companions roar with laughter and grab for the skateboard to be the next to try. When I pull off a shaky 360 they all shout, "helicopter!"

The afternoon evolves into more skating, gallons of strong tea, and endless stories exchanged in broken English and Nepalese. Kem and I had discussed reaching a cave much higher up today—we will stay for the night with the hunters instead. The day ends well.

Nepal is a tiny country wedged between India and China. Probably best known for its mountains (the highest in the world) and its hash (comparable to the mountains) it is also a country with

rich traditions and gentle people. My opportunity to get to know the Nepalese better came, oddly enough, as the result of a misfortune.

I often carry my skate when I travel, but enough is enough! Certainly the Himalayas are no place for a skateboard, I thought. It was without undue regret then that I left my board in the safekeeping of a Kathmandu hotel as the expedition departed from the city for the mountains. For the next few weeks, monsoon rains, chest-deep rivers of ice water, chronic hunger and porter problems, not to mention various nagging infections similar to trench-rot and leeches, occupied any time I might have had for skating. As we gained altitude, however, I began to notice many large, flat patios hewn from Himalayan rock. Other expedition members said jokingly, "You should have carried your skateboard up here." I fantasized about skating on the stones once walked upon by Tibetan traders of ancient times.

During the establishment and construction of our base camp I put my

hand under the wrong rock. Although I did not know it immediately, I had been bitten by a high altitude centipede of a kind about which little is known. The Nepalese later assured me it is nearly always fatal! It took many days to get back to Kathmandu and on the way the bite became gangrenous. In Kathmandu my luck returned in the form of Lee Block, a plastic surgeon from Falls Church, Virginia, and his energetic wife, Nancy, both of whom just happened to be in the country at the time. Between them and the American Embassy medical unit staff, I could not have gotten better help anywhere in the world. Outrageous Karma, in fact, considering I was in a country with no modern medical facilities.

After a few weeks rest and with a seven-day old skin graft to cover the hole in my wrist, I was able to return to the expedition. This time the journey only took five days. The rain had stopped and the rivers were smaller. With me I carried my skate—wondering from time to time if the centipede had

not affected my brain as well! The skateboard, however, proved to be an instant hit in all the villages I visited. During that trip and several other complete round trips I ended up making during subsequent evacuations, word of the doctor with a skateboard preceded me and a warm welcome was always assured. The Nepalese have excellent natural grace and were often able to do 180 turns on their first time on the board. Our sessions were limited mainly to freestyle due to the small spaces. When I described American skateparks the Nepalese listened wide-eyed. Leaning a slab of flat rock against another and doing a turn off the top prompted one goodhearted villager to offer his daughter in marriage. Though she was a very pleasant young woman, I, of course, declined. That turn wasn't that great anyway! These people would go nuts if they saw a good skater.

Although the Nepalese are in general healthy and well-nourished, there is very little currency in circulation in their country. A year's salary in the high villages is less than \$50, U.S. The purchase of even a single skateboard would be beyond the reach of all but the richest. I hope to return to this region someday soon with some skates and safety gear that I can leave behind. Nepal is a wonderful place after the monsoons stop and the leeches go back into hiding. It is lush and warm in the lowlands, dramatically beautiful in the mountains, and food and lodging can cost less than 25¢ a day. Violence is alien to most Nepalese's experience. They are a trusting and, therefore, highly vulnerable people.

When approaching a culture such as this, I feel it is important to be aware of the potential impact of the introduction of a sport and its associated values. It seems reasonable to ask which of our smog-town skate-nazi ethics we are eager to pass on and which are simply a response to stress at home and better kept there. One thing that instantly comes to mind is localism—that phenomena that prevents many young people from exploring new horizons even within the boundaries of our own country. There are numerous other examples if one stops to think.

The American skateboarding craze seems to have crested. As the fly-by-night parks close and the carpetbaggers leave the industry, a more committed and responsible skating community is surfacing. What the future holds for the sport in the U.S. is unclear, but its international appeal has not decreased. In light of ongoing world tensions, the goodwill measures of all international sporting communities would seem more important now than ever before.

(Left)
Leaning a slab of flat rock against another and doing a turn off the top.

(Below)
A highland tribesman experiences the fruits of 20th century technology firsthand.
(Bottom)
Water buffalo laze in the highland sun.





VANS MARINA PRO-AM

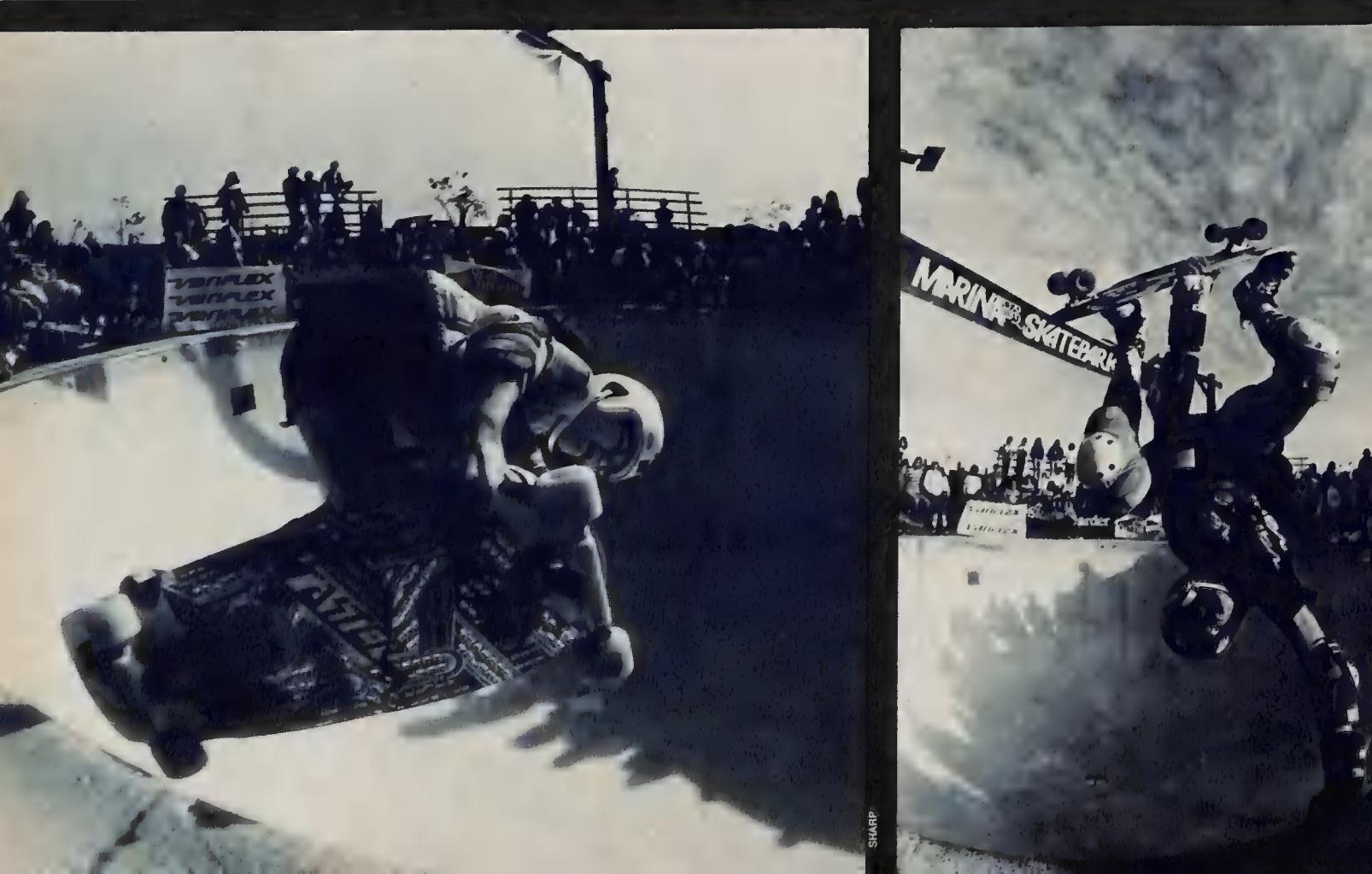


by Don Hoffmam

Marina del Rey's back keyhole pool was the site of the Van's Pro-Am Skateboard Competition, the last in a series of pro contests ending the 1979 bowlriding season. The fifth weekend in December found a small but very hot group of pros and some of the top California amateurs, gathered for a head-on confrontation to try for one last win for the year.

(Above) Pro winner Alan "Ollie" Gelfand's namesake ollie airs helped give him a necessary edge over the competition.

(Left) Amateur victor Mike Smith betrays fierce determination on a coping layback.





(Opposite page left)

Second place Eddie Elguera peppered his already spicy routine with incredibly high backside air.

(Left)

Santa Monica's Dennis Agnew merged strength and balance on this handplant stall, putting him in sixth place.

FRIEDMAN

TERREBONNE



TERREBONNE

(Opposite page left)

Brenda Devine pulled off eight air but total victory in the Women's Pro.

(Opposite page right)

Consistent and regular competitor Allen Losi managed second in the hotly contested Amateur event.

(Left)

Steve Hirshel swung into seventh in the Pro, showing more of the promise of his Upland and Winchester successes.

SHARP



Competition	
1) Alan Gelfand (Powell)	\$800
2) Eddie Elguera (Variflex)	\$500
3) Brad Bowman (Sims)	\$250
4) Bert LaMar (Sims)	\$125
5) Eric Grisham (Variflex)	\$75
6) Dennis Agnew (Z-Flex)	\$50
7) Steve Hirsch (Variflex)	\$50
8) Jay Smith (Powell)	\$50
9) Shreddi Repas (Vans)	\$50
10) George Orton (Santa Cruz/Vans)	\$50

Amateurs	
1) Mike Smith (Dogtown)	
2) Allen Losi (Variflex)	
3) Steve Lippman (Tracker/Vans)	
4) John Shaaf (Madrid)	

Girls	
Pro Competition	
1) Brenda Devine	\$100
2) Crystal Loges	\$50
3) Cindy Whitehead	—0—
Amateur	
1) Gale Springer	
2) Joanna Field	
3) Kim Freeman	





(Opposite page left)

Eric Grisham used handplants as well as his "el vaerial" to good effect, earning a strong fifth.

(Opposite page right)

Style monger Jay Smith pulled off clean backside air en route to eighth place.

(Left)

Veteran pro competitor Brad Bowman exchanged some stylish lines for third place.



(Opposite page left)

Semi-local Shreddi Repas made good on his name, producing this backward carve grinder and ninth place.

(Opposite page right)

Bent LaMar took fourth with high backside air and overall rough skating.

(Left)

Tenth place George Orton showed more of the wildman aggression which has characterized his competitive skating over the last few years.

Tinker Juarez in conversation.



by Jeff Lee Ohana

Tinker Juarez. The name seems to have the inherent flash. And then you watch him attack the snake run at Lakewood, and you know the rumors were all wrong. The guy's more of an explosion. A nuclear bomb, the chain reaction beginning when he mounts his two-wheeled machine on a volatile piece of skate terrain and ignites. The question was, "What makes this dude . . . uh . . . tick?"

Tinker is actually a very successful pro bicycle motocross racer from Norwalk, California, with over 500 trophies to his credit. Local legend had it that he'd been hitting Lakewood Skateboard World on a regular basis over the last year, and shredding the place. Although somewhat elusive, Juarez had managed to gain the respect of skaters and bike riders alike. Somehow, Tinker was one athlete-cum-daredevil who just had to be appreciated on the basis of tremendous skill and attitude . . . no matter who was spectating.

The following discussion took place during a particularly rainy period in late January. If most at home on his bike, Tinker's usual enthusiasm could not be diminished by the wet stuff. But then, maybe the topic at hand had something to do with it . . . —B.G.



(Top)

Despite being a top motocross racer and salaried pro, Juarez readily admits, "I'd rather just ride in parks."

(Above and right)

Tinker Juarez, park bike riding pioneer and prime mover, devours skate terrain with an appetite which amazes even the best of his four-wheeled peers. Tinker is even known to spice up his wide repertoire with decidedly skate-oriented moves, like this footplant.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CASSIMUS

“I Guess I’m A Little Crazy On A Bike.”



How old are you?

Eighteen.

How long've you been riding bikes in parks?

In parks? About 5 months—not very long.

How'd you get started doing it?

Just went and asked them 'cause there was nowhere to ride in the streets, it was getting boring. So I wanted to try something new. I just went to Lakewood (Skateboard World) to see if they'd let us ride bikes in there. And they let us.

time for three or four years. When I went to the park it just came natural.

How about riding the halfpipe? You know, when you come out, do an aerial and go back in?

Now that one . . . I don't know, I guess I'm a little crazy on a bike . . . I know I'm just born for a bike 'cause it seems like I can do everything on it, anything I want to do. I'm really confident about my bike. If I'm afraid to try something, then I won't try it. But most things I can do. And aerials are like that—bowls are not all that radical.

racing bike because you have a free wheel with no brakes and it's too hard to ride a park with it.

Your park bike has coaster brakes?

Yeah, coaster brakes. 'Cause when you get air out of these bowls you land too far back sometimes and if you land too far back you can flip back. When you have coaster brakes, when you land you can apply your brakes to keep from looping it back . . . it's just a lot safer.

Have you ever crashed in a park?

Yeah, I crashed—yeah, I crash a lot



"To me the best run is the snake . . ." Tinker jumps bowl to bowl in Lakewood's serpentine run, as if it was designed for his particular passion.

What gave you the idea of skateparks?

Because it's sort of like riding dirt—it has bowls that look like jumps and round bowls that look like berms and stuff.

What was their first impression at the park?

They were kind of against it at first because of it getting in the way of the skateboarders. They just thought we were going to run them over.

How'd the skateboarders react to you being there?

At first they didn't like the idea, thinking that we were trying to take over their spot. When we started ridin' in there, all the people were watching us instead of the board riders. It was weird. But they weren't giving us any hassles when we wanted to go and take our turns and stuff.

Did you have a few friends that were doing it too?

Yeah, I have another friend Craig Aune, and he and I have been going about three times a week.

How did you learn your park tricks? Picking up the same lines as the skateboarders?

My tricks in the park were learned when I was riding the streets. I've been riding for something like five years and when you ride out in the street you get bored with doing nothing, so you just learn new things, like roll-backs and all that. Like, I learned that going up ramps at home and stuff, just practicing all the

What kind of bike do you use?

Mongoose.

Any other special equipment . . . wheels, etc.?

Mongoose. I use Moto Mags, Mongoose bars, Mongoose everything.

What about safety equipment?

I use a helmet, gloves, pads, regular tennis shoes.

How does park riding compare with racing?

Well, the park riding's really not doing much for my racing. It's just keeping me in shape, keeping me from not being so squirrely on a bike when I race.

Are there a lot of people who both race and ride parks?

There's a few people who do both, but there's a lot that race bikes who know they couldn't ride a park, or they never heard about riding parks. I told a lot of my friends about it, a lot of the top riders, and they couldn't believe it and want to go try it out.

Stu Thomsen's really stoked. I talked to him and he was really into it.

Yeah, Stuart . . . I started riding parks when he told me about the parks. I heard about it from him, when he was riding the Runway and I got the idea of trying it. And when I raced up at the Las Vegas Nationals, we were racing right behind a skateboard park and that night they opened the park about 9 o'clock for all the bicycle riders. But I didn't have my practice bike. I had my racing bike and it's harder riding a

(laughs). I took a nice beef in that movie . . .

Greg La Mans' film?

Yeah. But I never got to see the movie.

It was really good. Real impressive stuff you were doing.

Really? That day when he was going to take films, I went out there and I just hit this one jump I was ready for and I fell really hard. We couldn't film that day. So I had to wait about a week afterward to do the filming.

How long have you been riding bikes in general?

For about six years. I started off when I was thirteen. I had my first bicycle when I was about fourteen, started in '74, then I kept on racing. It looked like it wasn't going to catch—bicycle racing—but then . . .

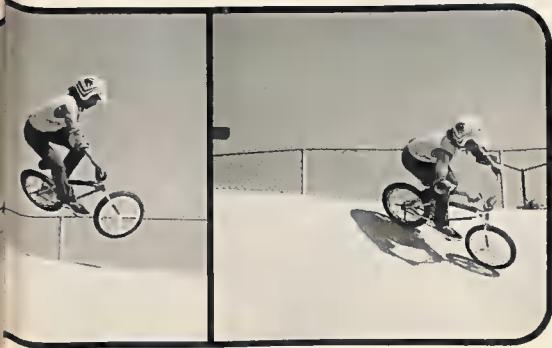
That when skateboarding got real big?

Yeah. It was around '74 or '75. But I stuck to it. A lot of my friends dropped out of bikes and I just kept on riding anyway. Then all of a sudden it just got really big in racing and otherwise. Now I'm a professional, I'm sponsored by Team Mongoose, and they pay me \$300 monthly plus they got me in this gym, and they pay for all my trips. I'll be going to Japan in March for a race, and I'm going to be riding a skateboard park there.

So you're looking forward to going to Japan and riding the parks?

Yeah, they want me to go to Japan. See, I didn't go there last year because

... I don't know what happened ... I had something going on last year, but this year I'm going, and I'm going to take my practice bike and ride the skateboard park. You know they have Moto Mags, the rims that I use, and they're not selling that much there, so I'm going to give a little show up there on my bike in the park and there's a race there too, some big race, a championship. Then about two more weeks from then I'm going to Chandler, Arizona, to race, a Winter National, and then the following week I'm going to Las Vegas, Nevada, to race.



Have you done anything else besides ride bikes?

Yeah, I ride Boogey Boards. I don't know, I've been riding Morey's for awhile too.

Where do you ride them?

Well, we went to Hawaii twice—the last two summers in August—I rode my Boogey there, and at Huntington Beach mainly in the summer. I like to jog a lot. Jogging is one of my favorite sports. I jog at least ten miles a day every day, actually Mondays to Thursdays, then I usually race. Now I'm just fixing my truck and I go to school. I'm going to be starting at Cerritos College next Monday taking some classes there.

Is pro racing pretty worthwhile?

Yeah, there's going to be a lot of money this year. Starting this next month, there's going to be money races every month, the Nationals are where all the money is. This weekend there's going to be a race in Florida, but we're not going to it, although it's a \$1,000 pro purse and you can make a lot of money if you win. The next month there's going to be like three Nationals a month and I could be heading for a lot of money. \$5,000 pro purses, you know, just outrageous money in pro classes. I quit my job so I can be racing steady trying to win a lot of races and win a lot of bills. Going for number one is going to be too much of a hassle this year because there's so many races. I think most of the pro riders this year are going to be hitting all the money races.



The guy who doesn't go for number one could make double the amount of what the guys going for it would. Like Stuart's not going to be trying for it, I don't think, and neither are a lot of the top riders.

Getting back to skateparks, what kind of terrain do you look for when you hit a skatepark?

To me the best run is the snake run, where you can fly out of one bowl into the other. Snake runs, halfpipes—I rode in a fiberglass halfpipe and that was one of the most fun. They had it in

bike in a halfpipe. You go up in a halfpipe and you put your feet on the very top, then you stall it for a second, and you turn and push your bike away and drop back down—that's one of my favorites too.

How would you feel about a contest for bikes in a skatepark?

I would think it'd be pretty hot. It may be hard for a lot of bicycle riders . . . I don't know, I haven't seen many guys riding parks. It'd be really hard to have a contest 'cause there's not that many

Anything else you'd like to say, about bikes, safety equipment, riding in general? What about learning to ride in parks?

When learning, just practice riding the walls. Get the feel of it and then work your way to the next easiest thing, like you would do on a skateboard. Go step by step. Also, have your gearing set up right for pedaling. You can't go in there with hard gearing and try to ride in a park. I'd go in there with a 45/16—that's gearing set up just about right for park riding. It's not too hard a



"In the Clover Bowls I like to do freestyle type stuff." Tinker gives Lakewood's clover new purpose on a 360 aerial exit.

Lakewood, like a gigantic halfpipe and you could see through it. I had a lot of fun in that because it was hard at first to get the hang of it, but once I did I just went all the way to the top, to the very top doing 180's, just going up and turning my back in and just kicking it and coming straight down. It's like a complete drop and when you pull away you kick and drop down. And the stop—the only way to stop there is to lay your bike to the side and slide down like skateboarders do. Bowls are a lot of fun. Just about everything in parks I like to ride.

What about swimming pools with coping—are they harder?

With the coping it's hard, depending on the depth of the pool. Like, Lakewood has these two pools and they are too hard to ride 'cause they're too small for me and the bike. You just kick and drop down right away. The coping is harder, but once you get the hang of it you can lift up and pull away from the coping . . . kick your backend out and drop in without hitting the coping, but it's a lot better without it.

What are your favorite moves in a park?

My favorite moves are aerials out of the bowls, getting about five or six feet up in the air. In the Clover Bowls (at Lakewood) I like to do freestyle type stuff. Come out of one bowl and go into a 180 and land in a 180 backwards and roll backwards to about two 360's and pedal off. I can do a footplant on my

people who can really do it. Some guys would go out there and probably get really hurt, instead of putting on a good show. It's pretty radical.

How do skateparks compare with other radical terrain?

In the streets you have to go and find some pile, like a construction site where they have all kinds of dirt, and you have to build your own jump, you have to pack it down, get it all set up. I like going to parks 'cause it's already there. It's a little more dangerous being concrete, but if you know what you're doing it's not all that bad—it's a lot more fun. I'd rather just ride in parks. Especially because I like jumps that are peaked out, vertical. That's how I make 'em when I go to a fill. I pack the jump, make it vertical, to get super high. The highest I ever got was about ten feet up in the air. You get that high and just throw it sideways, throw off your bike in midair, throw it to the side and you drop all the way from the top and you land right on your feet and sink right in the dirt. You have to have all kinds of powder dirt. Landing on flat ground is pretty rough on the bike.

You have to have strong rims?

Yeah, strong rims and plus you have to know how to land. If you don't know how to land, you're just going to go out there and be breaking ribs and everything else. I practice landing. I land pretty soft, especially when landing on concrete.

gearing, and it's not too easy. Some guys try to go with the hard gearing and then they'll watch you and wonder how come your bike's so fast. Because everything is so quick, you have to come out real quick and cut out real fast. With hard gearing you'll bog out and strain yourself.

Who else is into park riding that you know?

Craig Aune. He can do almost everything I can do, but he doesn't practice as much. He just needs to practice more, I think. And that one guy, Mike (Marker)? He's pretty good too. I've been watching him. He's pretty crazy. He does some stuff that I won't even try.

So you end up riding with skateboarders mostly. Do they more or less accept you now?

Yeah, they don't give me any hassles. I don't give them any hassles either. I wait my turn, let them take as long as they want. Then when they let me go then I just go. It's pretty fun. I like it a lot. I want to try other parks 'cause I want to try new things. I know I can do new things as soon as I get into another park. Maybe get higher air or something. Like the Clover, if there wasn't a fence there I could build up more speed by just going straight and dropping into the bowl, and I could probably get twice as high as I do right now. As soon as it stops raining, I'll be looking for new parks. ☺



"Juarez was 'hard,' seems like a gross understatement after one of Tinker's incredible sessions. Table top, Lakewood."

SKATEPARK DIRECTORY

ALABAMA

Flying Wheels Skatepark
1000 Rainbow DC
Gadsden, Ala. 35901
(205) 543-8570

Get Away Skatepark
3058 Leeman Ferry Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
(205) 883-5643

Wheel A Wave Skatepark
179 West Valley Ave.
Birmingham, Ala. 35209

ARIZONA

Hi Roller Skateboard Park
9111 N. Seventh St.
Phoenix, Ariz. 85020
(602) 277-7655

Skate in the Shade
201 W. Southern Ave.
Tempe, Ariz. 85282
(602) 967-0545

CALIFORNIA

Big "O" Skatepark
157 N. Wayfield
Orange, Ca. 92680
(714) 771-2140

Boogie Bowl
3857 Foothill Blvd.
Glendale, Ca. 91214
(213) 248-8729

Del Mar Skate Ranch
1555 Turf Road
Del Mar, Ca. 92014
(714) 481-0242

Lakewood Center
Skateboard World
5210 Faculty
Lakewood Shopping Ctr.
Lakewood, Ca. 90712
(213) 531-4855

Marina Del Rey Skatepark
12980 Culver Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90066
(213) 821-9997

New Wave Skatepark
2455 N. Gary Ave.
Pomona, Ca. 91767
(213) 552-9488

Oasis Skatepark
2928 Camino del Rio So.
San Diego, Ca. 92108
(714) 298-8876

Pipeline Skatepark
1777 W. Arrow Hwy.
Upland, Ca. 91786
(714) 981-6014



Whirlin' Wheels
505 W. Felicita
Escondido, Ca. 90255
(714) 741-5400

Winchester Skatepark
2885 Winchester Blvd.
Campbell, Ca. 95008
(408) 379-8673

COLORADO

Hi Roller
4949 Laguna Drive
Boulder, Colo.
(303) 499-5275

FLORIDA

Clearwater Skateboard Park
2525 Drew
Clearwater, Fla. 33515
(813) 461-1215

Earthin' Surfin'
1155 Pasadena Ave.
South Pasadena, Fla. 33707
(813) 384-3892

Kona U.S.A.
8739 Kona Ave.
Jacksonville, Fla. 32211
(904) 725-8770

Longwood Skateboard Park
Route 4, Box 400
(Dog Track Road)
Longwood, Fla. 32750
(305) 831-9097 nite: 339-0997

Rainbow Wave Skatepark
1519 E. Fletcher Ave.
Tampa, Fla. 33612
(813) 977-8844

Runway Skatopia
18555 SW 109th Ave.
Miami, Fla. 33177
(305) 238-4404

Sensation Basin
5719 NW 13th St.
Gainesville, Fla. 32601
(904) 377-9503

Skate Wave Skateboard Track
4412 W. Hillsborough Ave.
Tampa, Fla. 33614
(813) 877-9666

Solid Surf Rec. Center
455 E. Oakland Park Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33334
(305) 566-6888

GEORGIA

National Skateboard Park
5052 No. Lake Drive
Lake City, Ga.
(404) 361-2789

(Opposite page)
Jay Smith, Marina.
(Left top)
Steve Caballero, Winchester
Skatepark.
(Left below)
Dave Andrecht, Oasis Skatepark,
San Diego.

HAWAII

AALA Public Skatepark
River & Beretania Sts.
Honolulu, Ha.

ILLINOIS

Rainbo Skatepark
4836 N. Clark St.
Chicago, Ill. 60640
(312) 275-5500

IOWA

Fun Park Skateboard Ctr.
5110 Park Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50322
(515) 244-7898

KANSAS

Rolling Magic Skatepark
9633 Rosehill Rd.
Lenexa, Kansas

KENTUCKY

Inland Surf
2620 Wilhite
Lexington, Ky. 40503
(606) 276-4101

Ride 'N Glide Skateboard Park
1800 Neville Dr.
Louisville, Ky. 40216
(502) 447-4355

MARYLAND

Cascade Skatepark
1015 Leslie Ave.
Catonsville, Md. 21228
(301) 788-2622

Concrete Surf
7930 Pulaski Hwy.
Baltimore, Md. 21237
(301) 686-5858

CROFTON

Recreation Park
Routes 3 & 450
Crofton, Md. 21114
(301) 261-3839

OCEAN CITY

Parks & Rec Dept.
St. Louis Ave.
Ocean City, Md. 21842

ST. CHARLES

Skateboard Park
1208 Hickory Ave.
Waldorf, Md. 20601
(301) 645-9222

MASSACHUSETTS

Shooting Star Skateboard Park
Malden, Mass.
(617) 322-1777

MICHIGAN

Astro Speedway Skatepark
568 Chicago Dr.
Jenison, Mich. 49428
(616) 457-2776



SHARP

GOODRICH

Cosmic Wave Skatepark
4200 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007
(616) 375-4800

Endless Summer Skatepark
31900 Little Mack
Roseville, Mich. 48066
(313) 294-7170

MONTANA

Fun Town Skatepark
301 27th St. N.W.
Great Falls, Mont.
(406) 727-6857

NEVADA

Flow Motion Skateboard Park
3722 Mill St.
Reno, Nevada 89502
(702) 322-4445

Las Vegas Desert Surf
4825 W. Flamingo
Las Vegas, Nev. 89103
(702) 873-2213

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Big Bear Skateboard Park
Big Bear Rec. Center
Route 13
Brookline, N.H. 03033
(603) 673-4600

NEW JERSEY

Cherry Hill Skatepark
622 Hollywood Ave.
Cherry Hill, N.J. 08034
(609) 665-1881

Super Surf
Delsea Dr. & Landis Ave.
Vineland, N.J. 08360
(609) 696-8993

NEW YORK

Darien Lake Fun Country
Route 77
Corfu, N.Y. 14036
(716) 599-4501

Indoor Skateboard Center
17-17 Roosevelt Ave.
Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11369
(212) 639-4648

Long Island Concrete Wave
Skateboard Park
979 Conklin Ave.
Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735
(516) 752-0077

NORTH CAROLINA

Banks & Bowls Skateboard Park
Parkview Shopping Center
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27107
(919) 788-3483

Barney's Concrete Curl
Kill Devils Hill
Nags Head, N.C. 27948
(919) 441-5744

Concrete Connection Skateboard
Park
4226 South Blvd.
Charlotte, N.C. 28210
(704) 523-1492

The Skateboard Park
Woody Hewitt Drive
Carolina Beach, N.C. 28428
(919) 458-9361

OHIO

Apple Skatepark
5100 Sinclair Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43315
(614) 846-0634

OKLAHOMA

Curb Service Skates
735 Asp
Norman, Okla. 73069
Ridge Rider
1520 So. Memorial Dr.
Tulsa, Okla. 74112
(918) 665-3800

PENNSYLVANIA

New Wave Skatepark
340 Regis Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15236
(412) 655-7080
Thunder D'Ohm Skatepark
1000 E. Boundry Ave.
York, Pa. 17403
(717) 843-9024
Valley Skateboard Club
70 James Way
South Hampton, Pa. 18966
(215) 322-6620

RHODE ISLAND

Riverdale Skateboard Park
East Road
Warwick, R.I.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Funland Skateboard Park
3105 N. Kings Hwy.
Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577
(803) 448-8011
Palmetto Skateboard Park
Bypass 123
Easley, S.C. 29640
(803) 859-9343
Spartanburg Skatepark
3025 E. Main St.
Spartanburg, S.C. 29302
(803) 579-3023
Wave Rider Skateboard Park
1342 Raintree Drive
Columbia, S.C. 29210
(803) 772-3133
Westside Skateboard Park
2215 W. Palmetto St.
Florence, S.C. 29501
(803) 665-9722

TEXAS

Earth Surf Skateboard Park
501 E. Paisano
El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 544-4860
Lone Skate Park
3101 Florence Rd.
Killeen, Texas 76541
(817) 526-5454



(Left)

Andy Brewer. Rocky Mountain Surf,
Salt Lake City.

(Below left)

Chris Baucom. Sensation Basin,
Gainesville.

Skateboard Park of Norfolk
Norfolk, Va.

Skate World
3900 Wheeler Ave.
Alexandria, Va. 22304
(703) 751-2106

Thunderbowl Skatepark
1060 S. Lynnhaven Pkwy.
Virginia Beach, Va. 23456
(804) 427-1623

WASHINGTON

Olympic Skateboard Park
8910 Martin Way
Olympia, Wash. 98506
(206) 491-9807

WEST VIRGINIA

Falcon Skatepark
1205 Harvey Rd.
Huntington, W.Va. 25701
(304) 522-6463

WISCONSIN

Surf 'N Turf Skateboard Park
4267 W. Loomis Rd.
Greenfield, Wis. 53221
(414) 281-9000

FOREIGN

CANADA

Coast Skateboard World
7325 MacPherson Ave.
Burnaby, B.C.
(604) 438-3448

PUERTO RICO

Skateboard Park of P.R.
Call Box SP
Guaynabo, P.R. 00657
(809) 783-4345

SOUTH AFRICA

Cresta Wave Skatepark
P.O. Box 84141
Greenside 2034
Johannesburg, So. Africa

NOTE: SKATEBOARDER would like to hear from its readers about skateparks. If you have any additional information on the parks listed above, or know of any we don't have, please let us know about them. Be sure to include full name of the park, its address, phone number and manager if possible, plus any details on membership and facilities.

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SANDBOARDING

by Jack Smith



The snowboard has become a year-round pleasure vehicle on the sand dunes at Los Osos. Sandboard superman, Gary Fluit.

Sandboarding is like surfing. No, it's more like skateboarding. But it's sort of like skiing too. Really, sandboarding is a combination of all three. And then again, it's different. There are no crowds, there is no road rash, and there are no lifelines (there are no lifts). What's more, anyone who has surfed, skated or skied before will quickly adapt to sandboarding.

No one is quite sure when sandboarding began, though I've heard stories of people in the fifties riding car hoods down the dunes. I made my first sandboard in my high school woodshop class in 1973, and rode it every day for the following two weeks. I found out two things rather quickly: 1) the board didn't work that well, and 2) I was getting into good shape from walking up the dunes.

Well, skateboarding came along in 1974 and I really didn't think about sandboarding again until early 1979. At that time my skateboard sponsor, Flite Sports, sent me out some of their snowboards to try. After a week-long ski trip to Tahoe, I was convinced these



boards that worked so well in the snow could be put to use on the dunes near my home in Los Osos. A friend, Gary Fluit, and myself set out to test my theory.

In short order Gary and I discovered that snowboards indeed did take to the dunes. Falls were numerous and in the first few days our noses were constantly filled with sand—but it was fun!

At first we thought of using a fin to control the side-slipping we encountered. After experimenting with varying sizes and numbers of fins we found they created too much drag and also inhibited 360 type maneuvers. Then we discovered that by turning the board up onto its edges we were able to carve extremely tight turns.

It wasn't long until another surfer/skateboarder friend, Dave Arend, became involved in our sandboarding project. Within a few weeks the three of us had wired the basic linked carving turns, 360's and small aerials. By this time we had improved our boards by adding pizza tape for traction and wide

rubber straps with velcro releases for holding the board to the rider during aerials.

About this time we turned our attention to the many sand bowls and banks created by drifting sand gathering around the vegetation that grows on the dunes. We couldn't believe it! It was like a skatepark except that it changed every day due to the constantly blowing winds. Every skateboard move we knew was soon adapted to these sand bowls and banks. Laybacks, aerial laybacks, cess slides and berths were tried and wired.

As more people became aware of what was happening on the dunes and started getting into it themselves, the skill level of sandboarding increased dramatically. Perhaps the largest advancement came in the area of distance jumping. Flights of thirty feet became common with the longest aerial belonging to Gary Fluit at a little over fifty feet.

Soon a contest was organized. Three events would determine the overall

winner. By taking the dual slalom and placing well in the downhill and jumping events, Gary Fluit emerged on top.

Flite Sports, Sims, Burton Boards and Snurfer are beginning to show interest in sandboarding, so the equipment should become more advanced. It reminds me of the time when skateboarding was just beginning—everybody was learning so much, so fast, and having so much fun.

With more spring snow due to fall we still turn our attention to the mountains—but on the weekends when we can't make it to the snow, we've still got the dunes. ☺

For more information on sandboarding, write: Jack Smith, 633 Ramona # 78, Los Osos, CA 93402.



(Above)
"There are no lift lines, because there are no lifts." Local works long lines on a rope handle snowboard.

(Left)
Fluit's aerials have been measured to exceed fifty feet.



MARSHALL

Distance jumping is but one of the parallels sandboarding shares with its snow counterpart.



Author and sandboard pioneer Jack Smith translates skate moves to a Los Osos sand berm.



GOODRICH

truck design strategies

by Sam Fernando

As a logical follow-up to our "Lite Board Symposium" (Vol. 6, No. 7), the discussion below delves into state of the art truck technologies and current industry thinking toward "light" trucks.

David Dominy— Tracker Designs Ltd.

Lightness frees an athlete to expend less energy carrying or maneuvering his equipment, letting him concentrate on its swing, jump, turn . . . overall control. Most pieces of equipment are extensions of the athlete's body and we believe the less it weighs, the better it is. It is very possible to make ultra-light trucks with exotic metals and/or space age plastics, expenses not being a factor.

Our aluminum models are sand cast of 356 Aluminum, heat treated to T-6 specification, deburred, machined and then ball burnished to a shine. The parts have an extremely high strength to weight ratio. The aluminum is readily available and most skaters can afford it.

Now, as I indicated earlier, it is possible to make trucks extra light with other materials, but costs may be higher. Some materials that are lighter than 356

Aluminum are also stronger, such as titanium (an extremely light, strong and expensive metal). Remember, Tracker is a truck manufacturing company and we make very few one-of-a-kind or custom trucks for any reason, other than prototypes. One titanium Tracker might be \$100 if it were a production truck. Probably very few people can afford a titanium truck. Therefore, we would only produce a few per month.

A logical step for Tracker has been to cast our parts out of magnesium, cutting 30% of the weight, compared to aluminum. The overall weight saving per complete truck is 20%. That is quite nice considering the strength of magnesium is very similar to aluminum. The cost more than doubles. Why? Magnesium costs more. Magnesium is flammable when molten and during deburring. It is also very corrosive. We still sand cast, but with different molds, and then heat treat the parts. We then carefully deburr (clean up) the part and machine it. Then the part must be paint plated to minimize corrosion for its life. Afterwards, we put on "the white gloves" and assemble and package the truck. There is potential for many rejects and the production numbers are fairly low . . . which results in the high cost price. The sale price must pay for all of these materials and procedures, or

magnesium Trackers couldn't exist.

The high cost of light weight equipment is nothing new. Our magnesium trucks are very expensive and require perhaps more care than an aluminum truck. Those skaters who know the difference and need it will no doubt think it is worth it.

Michael Williams— Gullwing

Weight is important, but when you compare the top manufacturers' respective trucks, the weight variances are so negligible that it isn't worth thinking about. You might as well worry about eating a bag of french fries before you skate . . . it's that little. I honestly don't think there's enough difference between trucks to make much sense . . . it's just a marketing scam some guys are trying to pull off. We build trucks for strength by die cast injecting them under 50,000 pounds of pressure and syphoning off the gases to gain a more consistent casting. You can reduce truck weight by using magnesium, but the tensile strength isn't good. Magnesium trucks are too brittle; they just aren't worth the extra money. We put a lot of effort into our casting to gain added strength. By using magnesium we'd just defeat our whole purpose . . . a Gullwing truck is intended for hardcore skating . . . magnesium just won't cut it.

Fausto—Independent

When we designed the first Indys we worked around the traditional truck design and beefed it up where it needed strength and took off mass where it didn't need it. Blackhart was instrumental in creating our design and he didn't want any unnecessary weight. Our trucks were intelligently designed with low weight as a paramount concern. We've looked at other lightweight alloys, such as magnesium, and found they were too brittle. On the Pro Bowl circuit there are no big guys riding magnesium trucks, because they break. 356 Aluminum treated to T-6 is a superior material strength-wise . . . that's why we use it.

Frank Lawrence—B.S.C.

Magnesium alloys are approximately two thirds the weight of aluminum alloys. A truck weighing 14 ounces in aluminum will have 6 ounces devoted to kingpin, axle, suspension rubbers and nuts, therefore the net weight of the aluminum will be 8 ounces. If that truck is cast in magnesium, it will weigh 5.3 ounces. This means that the actual comparison is between a truck weighing 14 ounces and a truck weighing 11.3 ounces, or a net saving of less than 20%.

Although the tensile strength of magnesium and aluminum are about the same, depending upon alloy and method of manufacture, there is one area where aluminum is definitely superior and that is in the Modulus of Elasticity (10.2 x 10⁶ for aluminum, 6.5 x 10⁶ for magnesium). Since the deflection of any structure under load is inversely proportional to the Modulus of Elasticity, an aluminum structure is 57% less subject to bending. This means, for equal stiffness the quantity of magnesium in a truck would have to be increased, further reducing the weight differential.

Although "lighter is better" has become a buzz word for the skateboard industry, has anyone considered the fact that a low center of gravity is as important in a skateboard as in an automobile or any other means of conveyance? It provides stability. It would perhaps be better if the boards were lightened to the ultimate, still maintaining the considerations of strength and safety, while more thought is given to the truck as concerns its strength, rigidity, and contribution to a lower center of gravity.

William Posey—Motobilt

We use exclusively stainless steel axles because we feel that hardened stainless steel is the optimum alloy for maximum strength and minimum brittleness; you can get the alloy harder, but then you are risking developing cracks in the steel, and a break under force.

Of course, the other component of the truck, the aluminum, ranges in many grades, from scrap and recycled, to pure



aircraft grade. Unfortunately, the eye can seldom discern the difference in aluminum, costing 10¢ to \$1.00 per pound. In fact, 90% of the skaters would not need anything better than scrap aluminum because the odds are that the truck would not bend. Many foundries are apt to substitute, and the truck manufacturer will only find out later when the skaters begin to bend and break trucks!

We are concerned about the 10%; hence, we buy tons of pure aircraft grade direct from the producers (smeltery). This assures us of getting the best grade aluminum, and the best grade along with the stainless axles results in an excellent, lightweight, strong truck. ☺

(Opposite page left)
Gullwing rider Dennis Martinez. Del Mar.

(Opposite page right)
Tracker advocate Kim Cespedes. Del Mar.
(Left)
Steve Alba grinding Indy's. Upland.

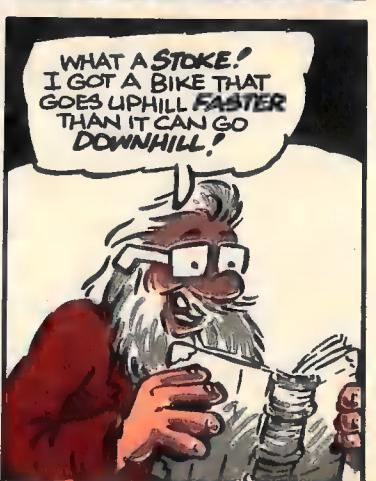
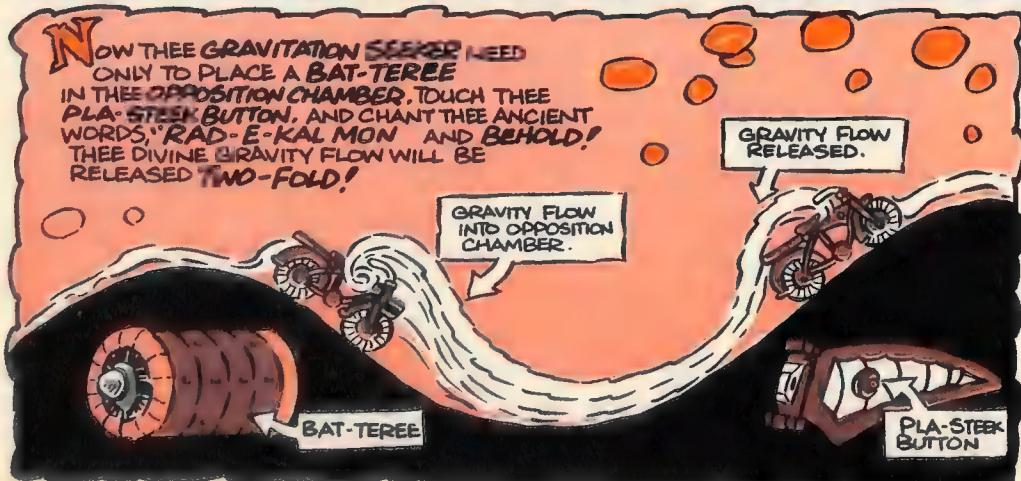
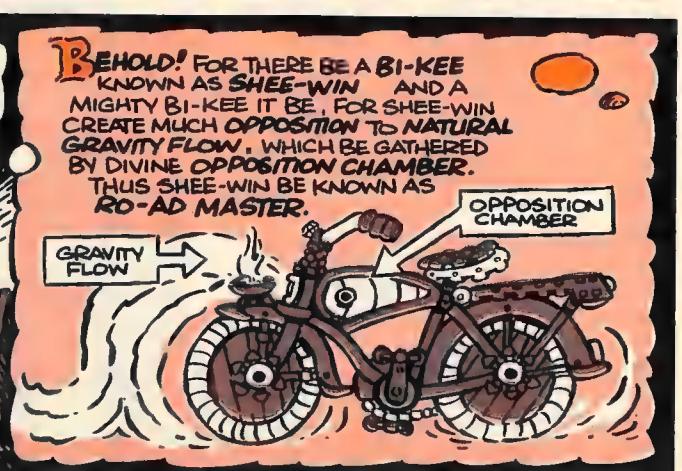
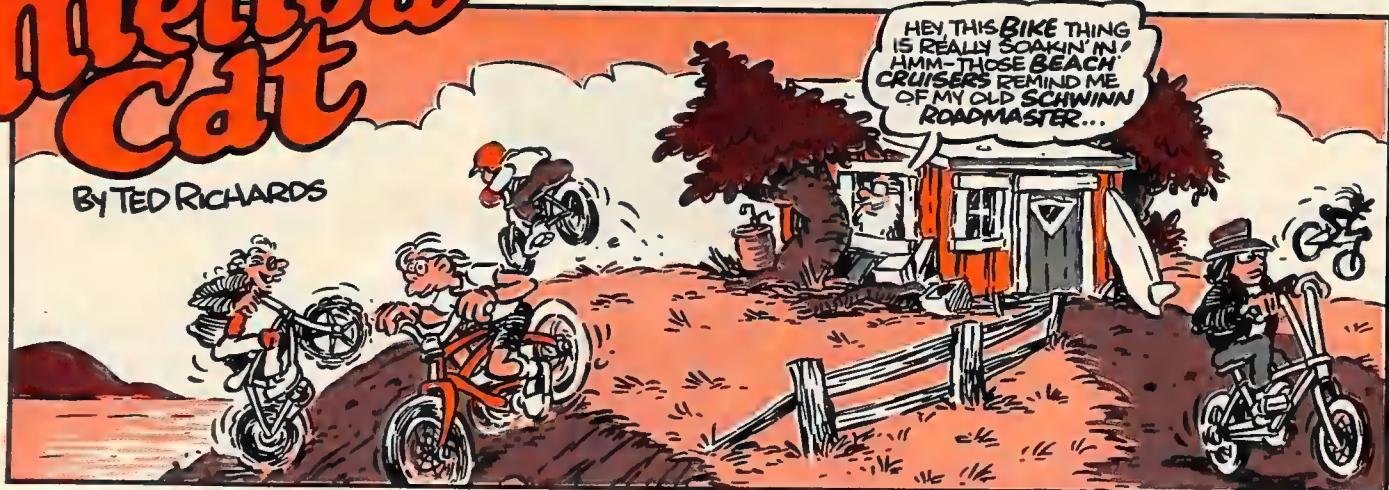
CASSIMUS

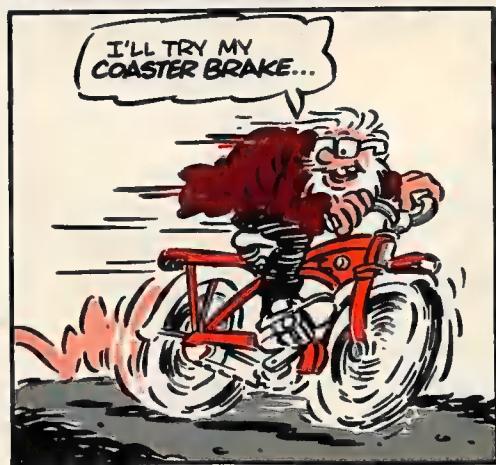
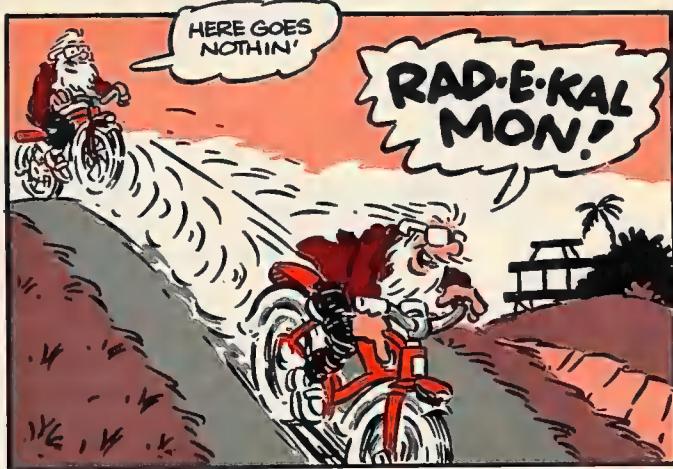
TRUCK SPECIFICATIONS

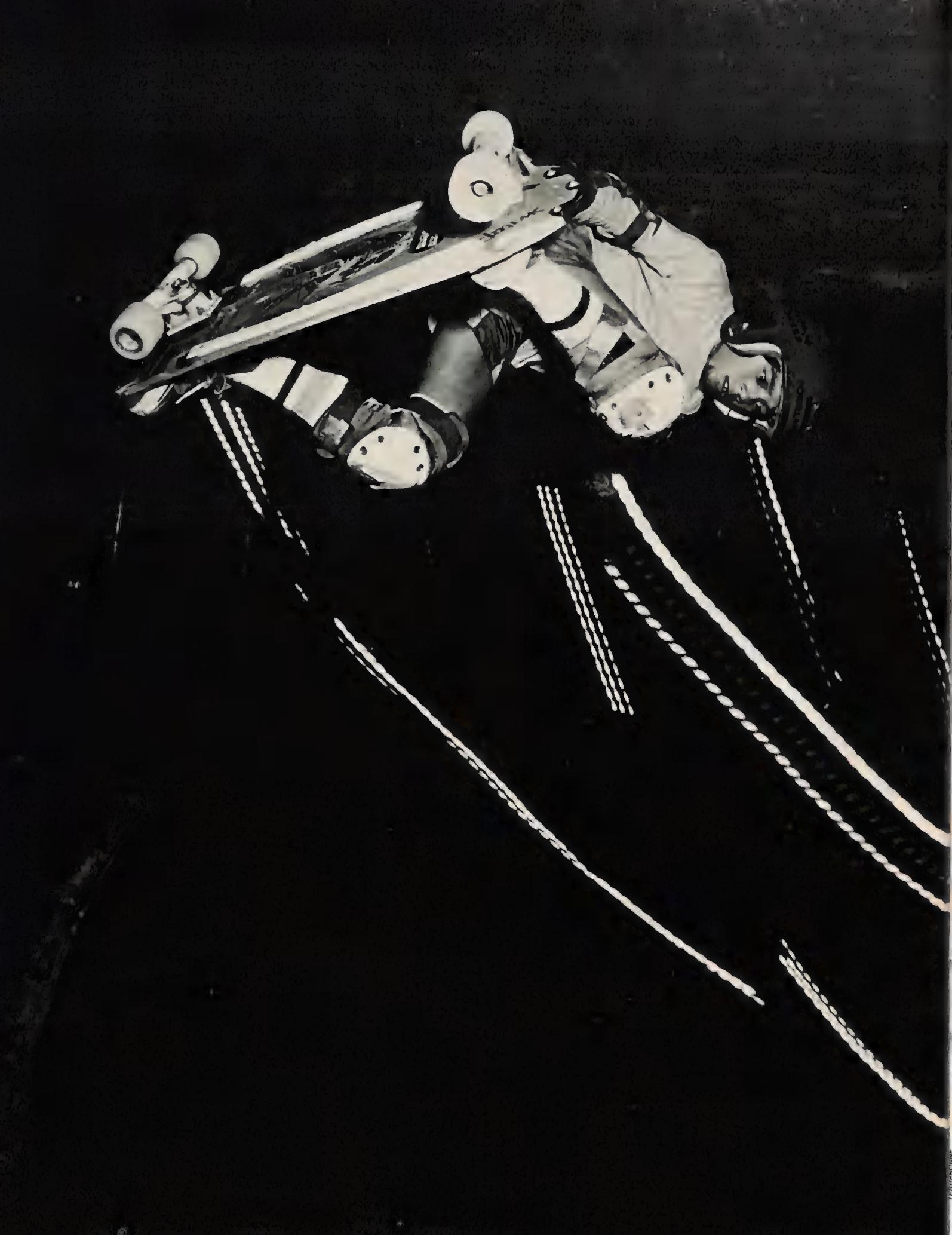
MODEL	WEIGHT (ounces)	WIDTH (between wheels)	AXLE
ACS Lite	8.5	3.25"	6"
Lite II	10.8	5"	8"
500	9.6	2.5"	5"
580	10.5	3.25"	5.8"
650	16.5	4"	6.5"
800	13.2	5"	8"
BENNETT HI (with metal base)	9.5	2.25	5
Pro	10.1	3	5.75
Pra-Ad	10.6	3.875	6.5 with spacers
Vector	10.0	3.375	6.1
Vector-Ad	10.7	3.8	7 with 4 washers each side
BSC	13.2	5%	8.25
Gullwing Phoenix	12.9	3	5.6
Pro	13.5	3.25	5.85
S Pro 8"	15	5.2	8
S Pro 9"	16.2	6.2	9
INDY 88 MM	10.2	3.4	6.25
109 MM	11.0	4.25	7
121 MM	12.0	4.8	7.5
131 MM	12.25	5.25	8
151 MM	13.4	5.75	8.5
169 MM	14.0	6.6	9.25
LAZER 8 inch	13.8	5.0	8
Megatron 8 inch	13.8	5.2	8
Energy Bowl Rider	15.0	5.5	8 with 1/2" spacers
TRACKER Haltrack	12.2	2.6	5.3 —All with 1/2" spacer, which weighs 1.0 oz.
Midtrack	13.2	3.4	6.25
Fulltrack	13.6	4.25	6.8
Extrack	14.1	5.0	7.7
Sixtrack	14.9	6.0	8.7
Mag Fulltrack	11.1 (guess)	4.25	6.8
Mag Extrack	11.5	5.0	7.7
VARIFLEX 8 inch	13.7	5.0	8.0
9 inch	14.5	6.25	9.0
MOTO BOARD	14.1	6.4	9.125
	13.8	5.8	8.75
	13.0	5.5	8.35
	13.4	5.2	8.0
	12.8	4.7	7.5

mellow Cat

BY TED RICHARDS







Who's Hot!

Steve Caballero

14 years old, rides for Powell / Peralta and Tracker Trucks

"This kid's so bio that we may have to do something about it."

—Wally Inouye

"Totally rad."

—Steve Alba

"Insane."

—Micke Alba

"Way hot."

—Eddie Elguera

"Completely out of control; beyond dementia."

—Alan Gelfand

"The number one up-and-comer."

—Doug "Pineapple" Saladino

"This kid puts many of the pros to shame; absolutely the highest aerials."

—Dennis Ogden (Owner, Marina del Rey Park)

"He doesn't talk big, he just goes out and does it; he fully gets the ultimate air."

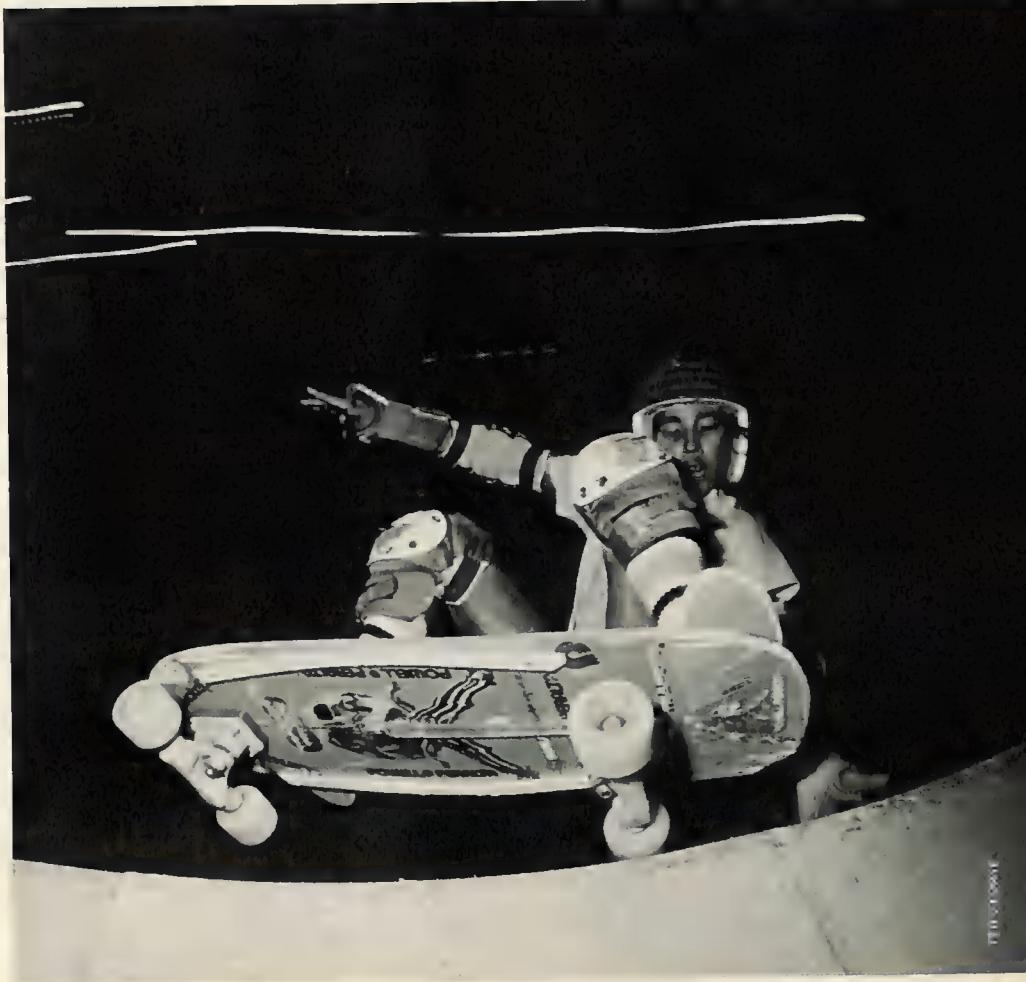
—Stacy Peralta

All of the above comments refer to one Steve Caballero, who is known far and wide as one of the rising stars of the San Jose power school elite. Steve, who believes in the ultra quiet, ultra cool approach to skating, offered only a few well chosen words in response to the preceding accolades: "It's no big thing . . . I just like to take it as far as I can."

Despite his laid back attitude (or because of it?), Caballero has managed to compile perhaps the most impressive amateur record around: first, Del Mar Nationals; first, Marina All American Amateur; first, Oasis All American; first, North vs. South (SkaterCross); first, North vs. South (Campbell); and second, Winchester Pro.

This card carrying member of the Bones Brigade exhibits a rapid, power-packed skating style that revolves around his extremely low center of gravity. Through all of his constant weighting and unweighting, coiling and uncoiling, Steve seems to be mastering a lot of moves that others aren't even thinking of going for.

Caballero's lifestyle currently centers around marathon skating sessions at Campbell and Winchester with school sandwiched in between. He credits these two parks with much of his development, stating, "Both of these parks' owners are really into promoting the sport and helping the skaters out."



For equipment, Steve favors a 28½ X 10 inch Ray Bones Snubnose, mounted with Tracker magnesium Six Tracks, Copers and 64 X 57 mm Bones Mini Cubes.

At the present moment on the Pro circuit, the big question is just when Caballero is going to turn pro. In his typically concise style, Steve related, "When it's time." After some voracious prodding he finally added that "the beginning of the next pro series might be right."

It would be the supreme understatement to say that time is on Caballero's side. At 14 he already has proven that he can skate up there with the heaviest, and no doubt when he finally breaks out and turns professional, things will really begin to happen. As they say, the rest will be history. For now, if you ever get the chance to see him ride, check him out—for sure he'll blow your mind. —Sam Fernando

(Above)
Steve's early grassroot rep has been positively confirmed by his recent competitive triumphs. Coping layback, Winchester.

(Opposite page)
Prime light streak—Caballero, Winchester.

OFF THE WALL

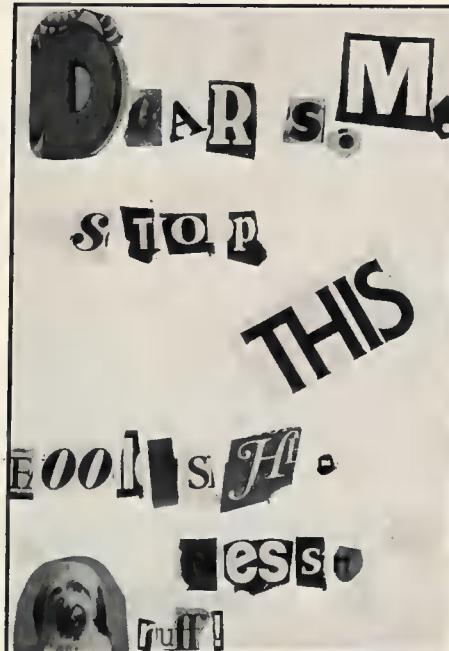
To promote the general health and welfare of our constituency, the Big Banquet and Fashion Show has been moved to the luxurious Balboa Pavilion. Due to the popular demand for more intimate space, and the reluctance of many to visit D. David Morin's home town of Tinsel Town . . . Yes, it's the Pavilion once again. Yes, Frank Zappa's personal favorites the Suburban Lawns will play. Yes, Bongo will take a dream date. Though unfortunately, no, no tickets at the door! Better luck next year.

SHOW BIZ FLASHBACK DEPT.

It happened during the intense competition at the Canadian Championships held in the P & E Arena in Vancouver. A long, low limousine with smoked windows pulled out on the floor and parked ominously with only its emergency flashers on. As the contest events continued, many in the large, highly exuberant crowd began to wonder just what the limo was doing there and just who was in it.

Suddenly the arena lights went out and a lone spotlight was directed onto the limo which slowly began to motor into the center of the arena. Then, for maximum effect, the chauffeur stopped the auto, got out, opened the rear door and handed in a microphone, and the crowd heard . . . nothing! Yep, skate fans, not a sound was emitted from the limo for several minutes as the crowd wound out in feverish anticipation. Finally, no doubt in realization of the present full-on riot potential, Canadian skateboard magnate Rick "Massiveman" Duccoman leaped out and sped into the intro, "Ladies and gentlemen, from Seal Beach and Santa Monica, California, two living legends . . ." Get the picture? Olson and Alva, P-Tex attired as usual, got out as the assembled multitudes went totally nuts. While Olson entertained the crowd with his phenomenal wit, Alva was so overcome with emotion that he tossed his prized genuine Alva Action green beret into the crowd. Just as rapidly as they appeared,

Coming next issue, classic cruisers. From the private collection of C. R. Stecyk, III.



GUIDE TO THE UP-AND-COMING DEPT.

Ricky Sarkany, age eight, resident local at Washington's Olympia Skateboard Park (his parents run the place), is drawing a lot of attention lately. After only a few months of skating involvement, Sarkany's getting major air and going stroke for stroke with the big guys. Look for him to place high in future Northwest comps.

At the other end of the continent, another eight year old vet, Pennsylvanian Dean Godfrey is also becoming totally bio. Brother of the legendary Jamie, young Godfrey already demonstrates enough aerial and coping flash that he blows many of his elders away. No doubt you'll be hearing more.

WE DEMAND COVERAGE DEPT.

After years of intense negotiations, we are pleased to announce that in a future issue we will have an exclusive interview with the one and only, the first and last, the genuine, Jer. His success has

the pair got back in the limo, were driven out and the Championships resumed.

Monty Little, president of the Canadian Skateboard Association, described the event as "being like time was frozen." Other standouts after the thaw included visitors Matt Barden and Chris Larson, and locals Roy Turner, Mike Blake, Sophie Bourgeois, Allan Harrison and Claude "Claws" Gillette.

LEGAL DISPUTES

Mr. Big himself, the ponderous Fiber Fats, claims he is so enraged over a recent advertisement by one of his competitors that he is suing for defamation of character. The ad in question portrays a number of hairy pre-historical and assorted Simian types. Just how Big McIntyre figures it relates to him is beyond us. However, Mr. Mac flatly stated, "I'd hate to see George Powell's family tree." Powell's reply, "Even smaller minds." We'd comment on this but we've probably said too much already. Can Fiber Fats be serious? Will he sue American Tourister next? Will he try to liberate the gorilla house at the San Diego Zoo? Or will it simply be back to Africa? McIntyre, the denizen of decency, has further announced the formation of his own clothing company.

Larry Stevenson, builder of the original sixties Makaha skates, is still pursuing his court battle to uphold his patent for the kicktail skateboard. Rumor has it that Larry may be close to connecting in the big court. Interesting, eh?



Ricky Sarkany, Olympia, Washington.

apparently inspired a host of other media manipulators to assault Skate De-Control Central with their threats. First and foremost is the erudite Raver, who has announced the "pressure's on—enough is enough, I'm bouncing Bowman and taking over." All well and good . . . but skate fans, will Andrecht ever get the cover? In the senselessness of fair play, the OTW staff has decided to publicly back Dave's bid for the big coverage he so obviously deserves. So come on, skate aficionados, let's get Andrecht that cover . . . we're talking back cover, of course. Simply drop a line to Mr. T. Sims, demanding he give the Raver a break in one of his ads. Help out the underdog,



TEREBONNE

Steve Olson and band conquering new terrain.

show you care. Meanwhile, Bowman's reportedly polishing up his acceptance speech for the Banquet.

Another publicity scam worth commenting on is the Pensacola, Florida, grassroots write-in to place Mike "Excitable Boy" Apperson on the poll nominating list. OTW has in its possession a petition with 256 names on it demanding that the speed skating Apperson be dealt with. Now if those same 256 people vote for him on the poll he might be a real contender.

ISSUES AND ANSWERS DEPT.

Curtis "Living History" Hesselgrave is offering impromptu draft counseling to a host of skaters who are wondering how to locate the bus to basic training and whether or not they'll enjoy Iranian cuisine. Some particularly devoted young skating Americans who just may join up include Tom Inouye, Chris Strople, Stacy Peralta, Curt Kimbel, Henry Hester, Bob Skoldberg, Bill Coster, Lance Smith, Dave McIntyre and Ed Economy. Some, none or all of the above, have been undergoing Curtis' aikido orientation and military approximation seminar. Now maybe everyone will comprehend why Hesselgrave showed up at every Hester contest wearing complete camouflage fatigues.

SEND A BARBER TO COLLEGE DEPT.

Bert LaMar back to a natural "brown" after seven previous shades. Jay Smith has cut his hair to above his ears and is pondering the possibilities of different shades of blue, while visiting Cherry Hill. Fred had to disguise his Blood-colored hair for a poster session. T.A.'s powder blue. King James and Paul Haven are contemplating U.S.M.C. flat tops with checkerboard skin stripes. Mock Mohawks for the masses. Square heads don't wear wigs "until it grows out."

ANSWERS OF THE MONTH

Yes, Duane Peters did personally give his entire team crewcuts.

Yes, it is Stacy Peralta whose mother

poses as a nun while his girlfriend poses for the Knack.

Yes, there is a disco at Park, K.C.

PLEASE TELL MY MAMMA DEPT.

Did you ever have one of those days? Mike Perryman in a slalom contest three years ago at Kona Park beat Pierce, Hutson, Skoldberg and Hester. When he went home his mom wouldn't believe him. In fact, two years later she still thinks he's wasting his time skating. Well, Mom, it's true! Mike did win, and no, he's not wasting any time.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS DEPT.

The Bones Brigade/Sims ultimate rivalry escalated to new heights at a recent trade show. Alan Gelfand and Mike McGill infiltrated the Sims booth and inserted Brigade propaganda into the Godfather's corporate slide show. Sometime (depending on who you talk to), either before or after the above act, Big Tom in either retribution or provocation, maneuvered a massive helium filled balloon flying a Gyro banner into position directly over the Powell-Peralta booth. While both sides delivered further vengeance, it was odd to later see both Mr. Sims and Mr. Powell together at 2:45 a.m. in a discotheque. At least they weren't dancing together.

D. David's been so deep in hiding lately that his former associate Kryptonic, Jim Ford, can't even locate him to tell of the birth of Ford's new child.

Ron Stein's working on a Pro contest for Cherry Hill. If he pulls it off, we'll finally get to see the great continental clash we've all been waiting for. Can Kevin Cooke, the Godfrey bros, Victor Perez, Mike Jeslowski, Mouse and all the rest, upset the more publicized western stars?

Unclaimed stars . . . Has New Jersey's own (via D.T.) Glenn E. Friedman surpassed punk and gone all the way to puke with his new fluorescent wardrobe?

Pineapple's keeping the low profile following his big interview, except to point out an oversight in our January (Vol. 6, No. 6) Hester coverage. Doug should

have been listed in the vicinity of 12th place for the season with 100-120 points accumulated.

Observed at the Cage recording session with Deborah Harry and Denise Downs . . . Fred Blood.

Talking Quality Control: Alva Skatemagnate Pete Zehndar is personally drilling all decks in the quest for precision.

Love-lorn advice . . . Steve Rocco's considering moving to Venezuela to court a certain glow-in-the-dark Zuelan beauty.

El Gato's pulling off Elgueriel Vaerials. Cash McAnlis is embroiled in a new line . . . hats with horns.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"I love disco, it gets me off."—Don Hoffman

"Repent now, sin later."—Jim Goodrich

"Because of the rain, it's been so dry."—Fred Blood



Funny Foto

FOOLISH

We told you he was obscure. In fact, we thought that the correct I.D. was "absolutely no one." The first to guess that was Mark Winter of Donelson, Tennessee. But unfortunately for us, the guy does have an identity. He seems to be Richie Irwin from Clinton, Tennessee. Prizes to Richie for being the first to correctly identify himself.

And for more faces from the crowd, last month's offering seems to be eluding you. So here's a hint: You may not recognize him without his size large glasses. Number two hint: He's no moron, he's an associate publisher. Also check out this month's foolishness. First to I.D. either correctly on picture postcard, please, wins fame, abuse and a Mellow Cat gift pack. Send c/o OTW.

Remember the hostages. ☺

Ted One

by Benito S.

AN INTERVIEW WITH TED NUGENT

Ever since the days of Rick Blackhart's bold Ted Nugent impersonations, and Doug Schneider's even weirder impersonations of R.B. doing T.N. (thus, "Ted Two" and "Ted, Too"), references to the real Ted Nugent have been frequent in this magazine. Over the last year, our Roll 'N Rock Readers' Poll has proven that Rick and Doug were not alone in their adulation. Aside from Devo, Nugent has appeared more often than any other artist on that poll and has been in the top five on six different occasions. Even Steve "Punker" Olson confides that he grew up on Nugent and still respects T.N.'s talent, energy, and uninhibited personality.

Credit for helping to set up the following telephone conversation with Ted goes to Skateboarder's New York Connection, Glen E. Friedman. We could have waited for a face to face encounter when his upcoming 1980 tour brings him to L.A.—although, as most of you would probably agree, we've waited too long already.

Ted Nugent was reached at his home in Michigan this spring where he was found to be occupying himself with his two "proudest achievements," his children Sasha, five, and Toby, three, and beginning work on a new album.

I understand you're currently getting ready to record a new album?

I'm into the pre-production stage right now. Me and the boys are getting down to some rehearsals and I'm beating them and starving them... preparing them for the next session. It's just an on-going saga of mutual delight. We all just kinda keep jammin' on different things that I've exposed to them while we're on the road. When you're touring you get so many ideas, constantly comin' up with licks.

Any major changes in your music?
Nah-h-h...

A lot of established groups are being influenced by the new music...

You know I gave it a lot of thought... I must have thought of it at least eleven seconds... and I said, you know, creativity is so infinite you can really get your head into extreme space and you can reach some far out note patterns... but then I said, nah-h-h... (Laughter)

PHOTOGRAPH BY RON POWNALL



The one and only Ted Nugent—Motor City's Manic Rock 'n Roller.

There ain't no end to rock. So we've been rock 'n rolling—that's all we do. In fact, I tell you, a lot of stuff that we're working on now is more blatant Chuck Berry-ish kind of rock 'n roll, like I haven't done in a long time. My roots are getting exposed and we're all really excited about it. We got some dynamite rock 'n roll.

I understand you're devoted to your family?

Oh yeah, extremely so. I'm sitting right here on the couch next to my kids and they're playing, making some Lincoln Loghouses that we're all gonna crush in a moment. Real big, big ones, then we get our four wheel drive Tonka truck and drive over 'em. So what I do is spend every other month of my life—30 days—with my children. Except on my summer tour, when I bring them out with me and the whole thing's coordinated for their comfort, convenience and needs. So, yeah, I'm



"The name of the game is to live beyond normal experience." Hunter, sportsman and rocker Nugent, presents his guitar as a lethal weapon.

very devoted. All of my energies are directly or indirectly focused on the guidance and upbringing of my offspring.

I read something about your hobbies, too. Hunting with a bow and arrow?

Well, it transcends just a hobby. I mean, the things I do in life I would never consider hobbies . . .

Because you put so much intensity into them?

Oh, just very extreme, man. In the fall of the year I disappear and I live in the woods. My home is in the woods . . . you can't even get to my front door



Ted thoroughly enjoys all the by-products of his success.

without a four wheel drive . . . and I've got my own lake, woods, streams, hills, the gullies and the crevices . . . there are bear dens, bird covers, deer woods, beaver ponds and duck marshes. I spend all my fall hunting, trapping and fishing, mostly hunting, and most of the hunting is done with a bow and arrow. I go to Alaska at least every other year and I hunt moose and bear and caribou with a bow and arrow.

I've heard that you have something against guns?

No, not at all, quite on the contrary. I greatly enjoy and appreciate the shooting sport, whether it's long guns or rifles, shotguns or handguns. I'm a very avid duck hunter, I'm a life sponsor for Ducks, Unlimited, an international sportsmen's group for the preservation and refurbishing of wild fowl habitats and nesting covers to enhance the propagation of the species. So I'm deeply involved in those things. It cannot by any stretch of the imagination be considered a hobby. My children, my rock 'n roll, and my

outdoor recreations are *extreme* passions.

The media has portrayed you as being a radical . . . is that all true? Partially true?

Well, the media, first of all must be identified for their lack of extreme consumption. In other words, they just cannot consume the intensities with which I pursue my life. Whether it's a journalist going out on the road, watching me rock 'n roll or whoever, they can't begin to comprehend the intensities of the out and out phenomenal, spirited, exciting attitude of me and everyone surrounding my entire organization. All my friends and co-workers know rock 'n roll, and we just cruise on out like a battleship with everyone armed and blasting. It kind of just blows their minds . . . they've seen me out in the woods sometimes and want to go out and check out my hunting activities—they can't begin to comprehend the intensity with which I pursue these things.

Where does that surge come from? Have you always been like that?

I've always been like that. I just dig these things, and I get so excited by them I'm not about to inhibit them. The name of the game is to magnify the intensities. The name of the game is to live beyond normal experience.

How old are you now?

Turned thirty one in December.

Did you ever ride a skateboard?

Oh, I pooped around with it a little bit in the mid-sixties, but I never got involved in it. But you want to know something? When I'm on the road I do a lot of interviews for radio stations, newspapers, magazines, television and things, and do appearances at a lot of major record store chains. I sign a lot of autographs for kids, and do you want to know what the most recurring item is that I sign?

Skateboards?

Yeah—really! A lot of skateboarders come cruisin' into these stores and I sign a lot of skateboards. I guess it gives them increased mileage or something. But I meet a lot of these people.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in and around the Detroit area, the outlying areas, around the river area where there were parks and stuff like that.

So it wasn't a "rough" area?

Oh yeah, I mean it had all those elements 'cause I went to school towards the city, and you still lived a city life. It wasn't the suburbs. It was where the concrete continues but the tall buildings end. It wasn't rough, I think it was great. The thing that makes

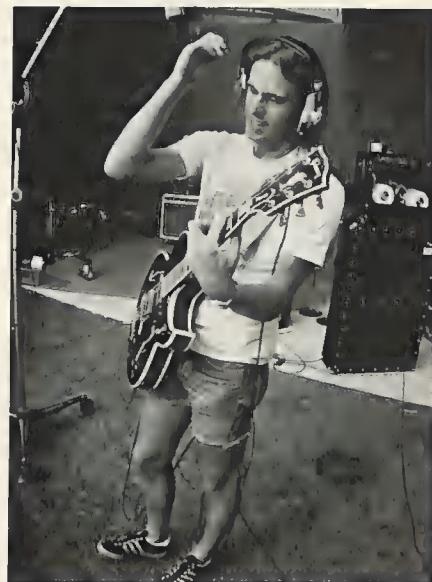
growing up hard is more what happens in the family than the neighborhood. I think it's how you act and react to parental relationships, brother and sister relationships, kid relationships more than city relationships. That's more important because the family unit prepares you for any experience or most experiences you'll encounter.

Did you have a close family?

Extremely close. We still do.

How did you get into music?

Well, I know I was only six or seven years old when I first started playin' the guitar, just a little tyke. So I think it was before Ricky Nelson or Elvis was on the Ed Sullivan Show. I think kids usually get interested in something at an impressionable age, and that was really close to the same time that I was exposed to the instrument—the guitar. Then I began to see Ricky Nelson on TV and Elvis on the Ed Sullivan Show, and then, of course, those shows with the Beatles, James Brown, the Rolling Stones—that blew my little brain. By the time I was ten years old I had a band and we were playing professionally. We played the Polish Art Festival at the



"Now I'm letting those original rock 'n roll patterns be more dominant . . ." Ted is currently in studio preparing a new album.

Detroit Fairgrounds in 1958 or '59. I played in front of 13,000 people when I was 13 years old. I got into it really early, and I graphed onto it with such involvement that it really ruled my life.

How do you feel about the current state of rock 'n roll?

I think it's excellent. I think if you want to rock 'n roll there's plenty of bands—mine, ZZ Top, Aerosmith, Van Halen, and people like that. There's good rock 'n roll there.

Are those the groups that you listen to?

Those are the groups that I do listen to.



Do you classify your music as rock 'n roll?

Strictly. As far as the state of rock 'n roll, you know, a lot of people will get into that train of questions and answers in interviews, but I know my focus is on rock 'n roll. It's always been there and it's going to be there. A lot of people, they're veered away from rock 'n roll, and they think that rock 'n roll is resurfacing. But it never went no place. The individuals may have taken a side trip temporarily, but us rockers have been rocking consistently all along.

When you say you're getting back to Chuck Berry, does that mean you're getting back to more simplistic sound?

There's not going to be any question that it's me, but I think I'm talking more simplistic in the feel. I've always used honky-tonk and boogie-woogie in my songs, whether it's been "Wang Dang Sweet Poontang" or "Cat Scratch Fever." All of the songs that I have recorded, always have that basic R & B, initial rock 'n roll pattern in there somewhere. But now, I'm letting those original rock 'n roll patterns be more dominant, and where before it was a rhythm pattern, a boogie-woogie, honky-tonk kind of thing, now the main theme of the song is played more on



Nugent is the stuff that modern-day rock legends are made of.

bad guitar licks than just as a rhythm part. It's just however a musician feels at the time. I just feel real "up" and real spirited, and more so than ever. I'm always up and spirited. Right now the band is so tight, and that frees my brain to play around to jam out, becoming more light hearted, more uninhibited.

What would you consider your proudest achievements?

No question about it, it'd be Sasha and Toby, my little girl and my little boy. But everything I've done has been phenomenal (laughter). The type of rock 'n roll music that I play . . . so many things I've done . . . I'm just so proud of. The fact that I have a comfortable life, comfort in the sense of being pleased

in my surroundings, pleased with my friends, my family, pleased with the health of my children. I'm extremely gratified with my rock 'n roll music, I'm so proud when I get these letters from people who think I'm one of the hottest rock 'n rollers of all time, and I appreciate them acknowledging that. I just feel good about specific little things like getting on stage and watching the audience. We were in Detroit three nights watching the audience go berserk! These kind of things make the old head just swell and swell and swell.

Do you have any prominent goals?

Yeah, to keep going. Just go into the studio in February and blast out the new songs, go on the road in April, June, July, August and September, and get ready for the next hunting season, watch the children go back to school next fall, take the kids on a fishing trip this summer, things like that I've got my eyes focused on now. I'm not worried about uncharted territory, more interested in keeping my eyes peeled on the terrain we're currently covering.

When is that next album going to be out?

I expect we'll be recording through most of February, and maybe through March, and I expect the album out about April.

Do you have a name for it?

It's either going to be called "Rock 'N Roll Dog" or "The Wango Tango." (Laughter) And it's going to be a rocker, I'll tell ya! It's going to be incredible skateboarding music! You'll have to get double kneepads to listen to my stuff and skateboard.

You've often done well on our Readers' Poll.

Really? Great! That just goes to show you skateboarders are the smartest rock 'n rollers in the world.

Where are you going to be touring?

In April, we're going to be touring the Midwest, small cities, because I love playing all those different places. We're playin' the big places too, but I love playing small places. We're going to hit all through Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin this April. In May I go to Alaska for a bear hunt and I spend the rest of the month with my children. June, July, August, September we're going to play every place. The only foreign places we're going to hit this year are Great Britain, Japan, and certain dates on the European continent. We'll get that over with in a month. Then we're going to do something like ten to a dozen cities in Texas, we're going to do everything up and down the coast, no more of these big wild jams on the Coast. I want to be able to jump out in the audience. We want to play San Jose, San Bernardino,

L.A., San Diego, Fresno, Sacramento, and—all of them. We're doing unprecedented tours this year—we're going to do like five gigs, one night off, five gigs, one night off, all the way through almost four months.

How do you survive that schedule?

I survive it because I have so much fun and I meet so many cool people and so many pretty girls, all my friends are on the road with me and we just have the greatest time.



"My children, my rock 'n roll, and my outdoor recreation are extreme passions."

Do you want to say anything about drugs and diet?

Only some sick dog would do drugs as far as I'm concerned . . . the name of the game is to live your life, to enjoy your life. The only way to do that, benefit yourself and your friends is to keep a clear focus, and the only way to do that is to take care of your body and your mind, and the only way to do that is to avoid fog. As far as I'm concerned, drugs are fog. I never dug drugs, I will never do drugs, and I tend to surround myself with people who feel the same thing. I've had firsthand experience, man. I started playing when I was very young, like I told you. And I've had fantastic musicians die, and I've had fantastic musicians lose touch, I've had fantastic musicians sacrifice their talent because of drugs . . . plain and simple. I've seen the damage that it can do and I don't want any part of it. Anything you do, whether it's rock 'n roll or skateboarding, you do better straight, and excited about the elements of real life.

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